Report on the Administration of Assam for the year 1939-40

SHILLONG
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
1941

Price Rs. 2-14 or 4s. 4d.

Report on the Administration of Assam for the year 1939-40

SHILLONG

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS

1941

Agents for the Sale of Books published by the Assam Government

---

AGENTS IN INDIA

(1) Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta.

(2) Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.

(3) Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.

(4) Messrs. R. Cambray &Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street Calcutta.

(5) Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons & Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No. 187, Bombay.

(6) The Indian School Supply Depôt, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.

(7) The City Book Company, Post Box No. 283, Madras.

(8) The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book sellers and Stationers, 4/4A College Square Calcutta.

ASSAM GOVERNMEMT PUBLICATIONS ARE OBTAINABLE IN GREAT BRITAIN DIRECT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA OR THROUGH ANY BOOK-SELLER.

PART I

General Summary

Table of Contents

Report on the Administration of Assam for the year 1939-40

PART I—General Summary

The quiet opening of the year, with the Congress-Coalition Ministry deeply engaged in the opium prohibition experiment in parts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar, was rudely disturbed by the sudden declaration of a strike at the Digboi oilfields, which began on 3rd April and was nearly general. An epidemic of strikes on tea gardens in Lakhimpur and Cachar also indicated the elaborate plans which had been made by communist agitators, reinforced from time to time by visits from persons like S. S. Batliwala, to take advantage of the heightened excitement due to the advent of the Congress to power. At Digboi the speeches were of a very violent nature, and the organization so strong that it was only on 25th May that the Company was able to resume production with a remnant of loyal labour and some imported men. On the 18th April there was an unfortunate clash at night between strikers and a patrol of Assam Riflemen on a lorry, in which three of the former were killed. Tea garden strikes occurred intermittently in a number of districts throughout the earlier part of the year, and there was much apprehension of a strike on the Railways. Political.

These events caused considerable embarrassment to the Ministry, and their efforts to intervene at Digboi, particularly owing to the attitude of the Congress party towards the importation of new labour, unfortunately gave rise to much dissatisfaction among industrialists, which found vent in the Calcutta Press. Racial bitterness sedulously fostered by the communistic group over the fatal rioting incident at Digboi was the most untoward feature of the controversy which raged thereafter. The appointment in May of an Enquiry Committee to investigate the causes of unrest on plantations was in the upshot no more fortunate, and by the end of June it had broken up through internal dissension. On 10th July Government appointed Sir Manmatha Nath Mukherji, a retired Acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, assisted by the Commissioner, to enquire into various matters at Digboi, and at the end of the month also constituted the District and Sessions Judge as a Conciliation Board. Conciliation efforts however proved abortive, and Sir Manmatha's report was not published, with that of the Board, till December. The outbreak of war on 3rd September however, and the declaration by the Central Government of the oilfields as a protected area under the Defence of India Rules, coupled with the despatch of a protective military force to Digboi, revolutionised the position and agitation progressively died down throughout the province. Thereafter the efforts of Mr. Subhas Bose to establish a stronghold for the Forward Bloc in Assam was the principal feature in the political field but never assumed the appearance of importance in practical politics.

The rejection by the Council of the Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, on which the Ministry largely depended for its financial stability, was remedied at a joint Session in August. Meanwhile the Council had passed the Assam Money-Lenders' Amendment Bill. Events in the labour field had however led to a considerable feeling of weakness in the Ministry, and the removal of such embarrassments by the outbreak of war was a definite relief. Indeed the position had so much improved by November that when the All-India Congress Committee finally insisted on the resignation of the Coalition in November, there was regret among most of its supporters. Shortly before the resignation, orders were issued enhancing the land revenues to 50 per cent. in the case of the smaller *pattas* and graduating the remissions for the larger holdings: also with regard to the "line system" restrictions on land settlement with immigrants. A Coalition Ministry was formed with the Muslim League in a position of prominence, but was only able to obtain adequate support in the Assembly by expansion to a total of ten Ministers. This combination secured a majority of five in the House when it faced a determined assault on the question of ministerial salaries.

The year was fairly free from communal disturbance, despite the existence of a good deal of feeling between Muslims and Hindus arising from a communique of the 9th July which recognized certain fixed hours during which music should not be played before Mosques. A small riot took place at the village of Silam near Sylhet during the Durga Pujas, and after the formation of the new Ministry a very emphatic demonstration took place at Habiganj, where an assembly of some 10,000 Muslims celebrated the end of the Congress regime in a manner which was criticized as intimidating.

Floods at the end of June and beginning of July for a short period virtually severed communications with Shillong, but the year was on the whole favourable to crops. Alarm regarding the rise in prices which inevitably occurred on the outbreak of war was readily counteracted. A price control order was issued and subdivisional committees established, but the need for drastic action was not of long duration.

Relation with Frontier Tribes.

2. The year was on the whole peaceful and the conduct of the tribes generally good.

The Political Officer, Sadiya Frontier Tract, visited Rima, where he established friendly relations with the local Tibetan officials and residents.

The Political Officer, Balipara Frontier Tract, visited the western and eastern Daflas. A small survey party accompanied him, and a considerable area was newly mapped.

Crops and condition of the people.

3. The year was chiefly notable for the absence of any kind of serious flood. Weather conditions were not uniformly favourable in all districts—in some the rainfall was scantier than in the previous year and consequently the outturn of crops was poor in those localities. Winter crops did not do well in several districts owing to lack of seasonable rain and to the prevalence of insect pests. In some parts of the Province heavy downpour caused floods and resulted in damage to crops. Owing to these, agricultural loans had to be given, time for the payment of revenue had to be extended and speedy measures of relief were taken to alleviate the resulting distresses in the flood-affected areas. The yield of jute and tea and the prices obtained for those crops were satisfactory on the whole. During the year there was a distinct rise in the prices of agricultural produce but this was counterbalanced by the simultaneous rise in price of commodities due to the outbreak of war and so was not of any great benefit to the *raiyats*. Cattle disease of sporadic nature was reported from a few areas. Public health was generally good. Small-pox epidemic broke out in Sylhet and sporadic cases of cholera were reported from Sylhet, Cachar and some parts of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. In the Assam Valley recrudescence of *kala azar* gave cause for alarm but the Public Health Department has taken steps to combat the spread of the disease.

Assam Rifles.

4. The number of men enlisted rose from 341 in 1938 to 490 during this year. Educational training achieved a high standard and there was further improvement in discipline. There was no "Desertions", and "Dismissals", "Discharges" and "Resignations" decreased. No military operations were conducted during the year.

Police and crime.

5. The ordinary crime as well as serious cases against persons and property increased during the year. Labour unrest in tea gardens and oilfields strike at Digboi gave cause for growing anxiety.

Jails.

6. The daily average number of prisoners of all classes fell from 3,304 in 1938 to 3,216 in 1939. The average period of detention of under-trials increased from 21·23 days in 1938 to 21·61 days in 1939. There was a drop in the number of offences committed by prisoners. Though there was a decrease in the number of admission to hospital, there was an increase in the number of mortality.

The average net cash earning per head of convicts sentenced to labour rose from Rs.7-12-0 to Rs. 9-15-0. The Assam Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society gave monetary aid to 16 *ex*-convicts.

Municipality.

7. The number and constitution of Municipal Bodies remained unchanged except that the number of elected members of Habiganj was increased by one. The Sylhet Board was under supersession and the Habiganj Board was re-established. The election of members was introduced at Nalbari. The Small Town election rules were revised and Municipal election rules amended. Section 241 was extended to Sylhet. Amendment of certain sections of the Municipal Act was notified in order to distribute functions of the Commissioner between Government and the district officers in consequence of the abolition of the post of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division. Consequential amendments of the Municipal rules were also made. Number of meetings fell from 308 to 289 in the Assam Valley and from 164 to 143 in the Surma Valley. The number of abortive meetings was 19 against 20 and that of meetings adjourned 20 against 28. The average percentage of attendance of non-official members fell from 68 to 66 in the Assam Valley and from 60 to 55·92 in the Surma Valley and that of 'expert advisers' fell from 12 to 11 in the Assam Valley and rose from 19 to 21·97 in the Surma Valley. The highest percentage of attendance of non-officials was held by

Habiganj among municipalities and by North Lakhimpur among Small Towns. The total income excluding grants from provincial revenues and opening balances increased from Rs. 5,97,062 to Rs. 6,31,998 in the Assam Valley and from Rs.4,79,394 to Rs. 5,16,798 in the Surma Valley. Contributions from provincial revenues increased from Rs.1,25,219 to Rs.1,26,541 in the Assam Valley and from Rs.84,563 to Rs.94,708 in the Surma Valley. The total expenditure excluding repayment of loans increased from Rs. 7,23,212 to Rs.7,61,764 in the Assam Valley and from Rs. 5,63,331 to Rs.6,42,103 in the Surma Valley. No loan was granted except one of Rs.15,000 to Jorhat for improvement of water-supply. The financial position continued to be unsatisfactory. The liabilities of Dibrugarh, Sylhet, Gauhati and Sunamganj were undesirably heavy. The Sunamganj Board could not maintain the prescribed minimum balance. The Sylhet Board's finances greatly improved under official management. Out of a total taxes of Rs.56,105 outstanding on the date of supersession Rs.53,265 was reported to be collected by the 31st March 1940 and liabilities to the extent of Rs.35,015 were cleared by that date. The Gauhati Board's finances were in a very bad state. It had a debt of Rs.65,500 on 1st April 1940. Dibrugarh in spite of its bad financial position continued to incur expenditure without regard to its resources and gave lavish remission of taxes. Collection of taxes was generally below the usual standard. Tezpur was the best with an outstanding balance of Rs.32 only.

8. There was no change in the number or constitution of the Boards. The Silchar Local Board voted for an increase of local rate by three pies in the rupee and effected necessary economy by curtailing the staff to meet increasing commitments to some extent. The financial position of Habiganj, Karimganj and Sunamganj was bad. Middle English Schools decreased by one in the Surma Valley, Middle Vernacular Schools increased by one and the Primary Schools by 246. Local Boards.

The number of dispensaries increased by 3. These 3 were in the Assam Valley. Steps were taken, for starting a clinic at Dhubri for tuberculosis cases. An indoor hospital was established at Golaghat at Government expense and the headquarters of the Assistant Director of Public Health were transferred temporarily to that place to combat the recrudescence of *kala azar* there.

Progress in the improvement of existing sources and providing fresh sources of rural water-supply was maintained with the aid of Government of India's grant for rural uplift. Some of the Boards took over for maintenance a number of ring and tube wells constructed from this grant.

The expenditure on communications fell from Rs.5,77,410 to Rs.5,24,819 in the Assam Valley but rose from Rs.1,46,334 to Rs.1,57,465 in the Surma Valley.

9. Dr. S. K. Mitra was in charge of the Department throughout the year. Experiments and Researches made satisfactory progress at the Experimental Stations at the Karimganj, Titabar, Habiganj, Jorhat, Upper Shillong, Khanapara, Sylhet, Shillong and Burnihat. During the year an animal nutrition scheme financed jointly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Provincial Government was started at Khanapara Cattle Breeding Farm. Agricultural Marketing survey and developmental work relating to marketing were continued. The activities of the Livestock Section and the usual crop demonstration including demonstration of the cultivation of *boro* paddy on *amon* lands under mechanical irrigation were continued. Agriculture.

10. The number of societies of all kinds increased from 1,551 to 1,579. The working capital, however, decreased from Rs.88,25,203 to Rs.83,44,914 an indication of the rapid deterioration that is taking place in its position. Co-operative Societies.

11. The total area of reserved and protected forests was 6,666 square miles—an increase of 152 square miles. Working plans exist fo 4,671 square miles of these forests and plans are under preparation and revision for 103 and 516 square miles respectively. Forests.

The receipts for the year rose from Rs.16,69,298 to Rs.17,45,412 and expenditure from Rs.11,60,713 to Rs.11,60,958.

The result was a surplus (excluding the Khasi States' accounts) of Rs.5,84,454 against Rs.5,08,585 in the preceding year.

The total revenue earned by the Goalpara Tramway was Rs.44,123 against an expenditure of Rs.36,294.

Elephant catching operations fatched Rs.57,535 against about Rs.63,000.

The royalty on lac rose from Rs.25,569 to Rs.26,673.

Tea Industry.

12. The number of gardens increased from 1,120 to 1,126 and the total area under tea decreased from 439,134 acres (revised) to 438,251 acres. The total outturn of tea in the province amounted to 252,347, 353 lbs. of black and 572,175 lbs. of green tea against 260, 248, 898 lbs. and 808,493 lbs. respectively in the previous year.

The average Calcutta price per lb. for Brahmaputra Valley was nine annas ten pies and for Surma Valley six annas ten pies against eight annas four pies and six annas two pies respectively in the previous year.

Industry.

13. There was no change in the policy of the Department hitherto pursued. Its activities were, therefore, mainly confined to the encouragement of Handloom weaving and Sericulture and to the spread of technical and industrial education of the youths of the province. For want of adequate staff the Department could not pay much attention to the development of the small cottage industries in existence and organisation of new ones for which there is undoubtedly enough scope in the province. The three technical schools and the Weaving Institute at Gauhati continued to impart necessary training to the students while the Peripatetic Demonstration parties were engaged in popularising new appliances, etc., besides rendering help to the weavers throughout the province. An attempt has been made to introduce Hosiery and Jute spinning and weaving industries in the province by entertainment of temporary staff on an experimental basis. The working of the Sericultural Branch of the Department was confined to the production of disease-free seeds and their distribution mainly to the rearers for speedy development of the industry which has a bright prospect before it. The weather conditions of the year were quite good for silk worm crops in the Lower Assam Districts but they were not favourable in the Upper Assam Districts. Private institutions imparting vocational training to the youths and Exhibition Committees organized in different parts of the province were encouraged by granting small non-recurring contribution, out of the provincial budget as well as from the Assam Williamson Education Endowment Fund. Most of the applications for industrial loans had to be rejected for inadequate security. This was due to the stringency of the rules for the grant of Industrial loans, which have however, been since liberally revised according to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Development for Industries. This Board of Development met only once and made certain recommendations which are yet under consideration of the Government.

Excise.

14. The excise revenue fell from Rs.35,77,092 to Rs.34,45,607 ; the consumption of country spirit and *ganja* increased from 276,832 L.P. gallons to 312,796·0 L.P. gallons and 303 maunds 10 seers to 306 maunds 14 seers respectively.

The increase in the consumption of country spirit was due to the check put on illicit distillation, excessive brewing of *pachwai*, and the frauds practised on the consumers by the vendors, and the opening of lessee manager shops in the localities where illicit distillation was suspected. The reversion of consumers to licit sources as they realise the risk of using contraband supplies is mainly responsible for the increase in the consumption of *ganja*. Owing to the reduction policy of Government the consumption of opium fell from 183 maunds 6 seers to 94 maunds 4 seers.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

15. The year opened with 294 hospitals and dispensaries against 281 in 1938. Year ending the 31st December 1939. The total number of patients treated in the State Public, Local Fund and Private-aided Hospitals and Dispensaries was 2,145,093 against 1,994,687 in the preceding year. The total income (including opening balances) and expenditure were Rs.1,138,925 and Rs.965,578 against Rs.10,95,586 and Rs.9,40,492 in 1938 respectively.

Mental Hospital.

16. The total number of mental patients in hospitals at the end of the year Year ending the 31st December 1939. was 682 and the daily average strength was 694·92 against 688·46 in 1938. The expenditure decreased from Rs.1,28,644-14-6 in 1938 to Rs.1,25,483-7-0 in 1939.

Pasteur Institute.

17. In all, 1,986 patients completed treatment during the year against 1,875 Year ending 31st December 1939. in 1938. Of these 98 were treated in the Pasteur Institute and 1,888 in out-centres. The mortality among all treated cases was 0·50 per cent. against 0·79 per cent. in 1938.

The Assam Medical Research Society continued to function.

Vital statistics.

18. This year all calculations of vital statistics are based on the estimated population and not on the census population of 1931.

The birth and death rates were 28·44 and 19·25 respectively as against 27·89 and 20·90.

19. The state of public health in the Province was fairly good during the year under report. Deaths under all heads of disease with the exception of small-pox were less than that in 1938. Sanitation.

During the year 1,64,119 deaths were recorded, 3,020 of which were from cholera, 2,197 from small-pox, 103,892 from fevers, 11,641 from dysentery and diarrhœa, 5,981 from respiratory diseases, 1,893 from injuries and 35,495 from all other causes.

The total number of quinine-reinforced cinchona febrifuge treatments sold rose from 7,931 parcels in the previous year to 8,762.

20. The total number of vaccinations done was 945,876 against 855,034 in the previous year. Vaccination.

The death rate from small-pox per mille was ·26 as compared with ·21 in 1938.

21. The number of institutions of all kinds increased by 927 and that of pupils by 50,229. Recognised institutions rose from 8,297 to 8,867 and their enrolment from 485,992 to 520,473. The total expenditure on public instruction increased from Rs.60,22,085 to Rs,64,01,619. Education.

The enrolment in the two Government Arts Colleges rose from 1,799 to 1,820.

Muhammadan pupils in all classes of educational institutions for Indians increased from 151,693 to 175,109.

22.(*a*) As a result of the Niemeyer award, the province continues to receive the recurring contribution of Trs. 30,00 and 62½ per cent. of the Jute export duty. The year 1938-39 started with an opening balance of Trs. 30,98 and was expected to end with a closing balance of Trs. 18,73, but it actually closed with a balance of Trs. 27,24. The increase in the closing balance was the result of variations under different heads both on the revenue and capital sides. Finance Budget.

(*b*) The year 1939-40 thus started with an opening balance of Trs. 27,24. The revenue receipts and expenditure were estimated at Trs. 2,84,45 and Trs. 3,01,88 respectively thus anticipating an excess of expenditure charged to revenue over revenue of Trs. 17,43. The actual receipts and expenditure, however, amounted to Trs. 2,93,33 and Trs. 2,92,33 respectively which resulted in an excess of revenue over expenditure by Trs. 1,00. This is the first time actual revenue has exceeded actual revenue expenditure for thirteen years. The increase of Trs. 8,88 under revenue receipts is mainly due to increases in receipts under "Customs" (Trs. 1,89) and "Taxes on Income" (Trs. 3,21) owing to an increase in this Government's share of the export duty on jute and the net proceeds of income-tax as well as receipts from the Assam Agricultural Income-tax Act, "Land Revenue (Trs. 4,09)" due to earlier collections of land revenue under "Temporary settled estates", owing to the rise in prices, "Provincial Excise (Trs. 3,04)" due to increased consumption of country spirit, "Receipts under Motor Vehicles Taxation Act" (Trs. 58) as a result of an increase in the tax on private motor vehicles and "Other taxes and duties" (Trs. 2,34) owing to new taxes imposed on motor spirits, amusements, etc., partly counterbalanced by decreases under "Stamps" (Trs. 1,14), mainly as a result of the establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards, "Police" (Trs. 1,09) due to fall in estimated receipts accruing from the Cattle Trespass Act, "Civil Works" (Trs. 2,77) mainly due to smaller subvention from the Central Road Development Account and "Miscellaneous" (Trs. 1,69) owing to a fall in the estimated receipts realised by local bodies. The decrease of Trs.9,55 in expenditure occurred under the heads "12.—Motor Vehicles Taxation Act", "Interest", "Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of Debt", "Police", "Civil Works", "Famine Relief" and "Miscellaneous" for various reasons. The original estimate of revenue expenditure for the year under review, however included a sum of Rs. 3,59,183 for new schemes of which Rs. 1,41,327 was non-recurring and Rs. 2,17,856 recurring. Supplementary grants to the extent of Rs. 5,60,491 were also obtained during the year. Actual revenue and expenditure and surplus.

(*c*) Under capital, Debt and Deposit heads the revenue was estimated at Trs. 5,37,56 and expenditure at Trs. 5,16,31 but the actual receipts and expenditure amounted to Trs. 5,69,51 and Trs. 5,51,36 respectively. The receipts and expenditure under these heads are of a fluctuating nature and any increase or decrease in receipts is followed by a similar increase or decrease in expenditure. Capital account.

General. The financial condition of the province during 1939-40 showed a great improvement despite the fact that further remissions of land revenue were sanctioned in that year and this with the remissions sanctioned in 1937-38 resulted in a recurring loss of revenue to the extent of nearly Trs. 40,00. The Congress-Coalition Government adopted a policy for the prohibition of the consumption of opium in certain areas with effect from 1st April 1939 and for an accelerated reduction of rations of all consumers elsewhere until prohibition is extended to those areas and the effect of this has been estimated to be a fall of Trs. 6,00 in Excise revenues. Although the financial position was not as satisfactory as could be wished when the budget was framed it was necessary for a popular Government to finance several new schemes during the year totalling Rs. 3,59,183. Steps were, however, taken to augment the revenues of the province by the imposition of taxation on agricultural income, motor spirit and lubricants, and amusements and betting, which were estimated to yield an annual income of about 30 lakhs of rupees, the effect of which could only be fully realised during the financial year 1940-41.

Owing to the change in Government that occurred during the year it was not possible to complete the examination of the report of the resources and retrenchment committee.

Stamps. 23. The provincial revenue derived in Assam under the Stamp and Court Fees Acts fell from Rs. 17,87,288 to Rs. 17,44,654.

PART II

Administration Report

Table of Contents

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION

CHAPTER VIII.—MISCELLANEOUS

Report on the Administration of Assam for the year 1939-40

PART II–REPORT

CHAPTER I

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY

SECTION 1.—Physical Features of the Country, Area, Climate and Chief Staples

SECTION 2.—Historical Summary

SECTION 4.—Character of Land Tenures, System of Surveys and Settlements

SECTION 5.—Civil Divisions of British Territory

[*See* Administration Report, 1921-22, Part II, pages 1-74.]

SECTION 6.—Details of Last Census, Tribes and Languages

[*Vide* Report on the Census of Assam, 1931.]

SECTION 7.—Changes in the Administration

His Excellency Sir Robert Niel Reid, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., continued to hold the office of Governor.

His Excellency Mr. (now Sir) Henry Joseph Twynam, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., officiated as Governor of Assam from the 1st April 1939 to the 11th June 1939, during which period His Excellency Sir Robert Reid was absent from the Province for the purpose of acting as Governor of Bengal and again from the 12th June 1939 to the 4th October 1939, during the absence on leave of His Excellency Sir Robert Reid.

On the resignation of the members constituting the Cabinet formed by Srijut G. N. Bardoloi, His Excellency the Governor reconstituted his Council of Ministers on the 17th November 1939 with the following gentlemen—

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla,
The Hon'ble Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri,
The Hon'ble Maulavi Munawwar Ali,
The Hon'ble Srijut Hirendra Chandra Chakrabatti,
The Hon'ble Khan Sahib Maulavi Mudabbir Hussain Chaudhuri, and
The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Nath Saikia.

The Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman and the Hon'ble Miss Mavis Dunn were appointed members of the Council of Ministers on the 5th December 1939 and the Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma on the 9th January 1940.

SECTION 8.—Frontier relations

[*See* Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 79-91.]

Chap. I

Physical and Political Geography

SECTION 9.—Relations with the Frontier Tribes

[*See* Report on the Frontier Tribes for the year 1939-40.]

FRONTIER TRIBES

Sadiya Frontier Tract.

2. The Political Officer visited Rima, where he established friendly relations with the local Tibetan officials and residents. On the same journey he was able to make contact with the Miju Mishmis of the Upper Lohit, and took the opportunity of impressing upon them the determination of Government to stamp out slavery.

The Taroan Mishmis having committed a murder were prevented from coming down for their usual work in the plains till the murderers were produced.

The Hkamptis, Singphos and Rangpang Nagas gave no trouble, save that Nagas from beyond the Patkoi were implicated in some rail thefts.

The Abors were peaceful and well-behaved. As a result of the Political Officer's tour in the Upper Siang Valley last year trade blocks have, to a great extent, been removed, and the determination of Government to put down slavery more fully realised.

Balipara Frontier Tract.

3. The Miri Akas visited the plains in their usual numbers and were well-behaved.

The Nij Akas and Miji Akas resented the orders forbidding them to exact tribute from their neighbours and gave some trouble.

The Tibetans, Monbas, Bhutias and Tembang Bhutias visited the plains in their usual numbers and were well-behaved.

The Political Officer visited the western Daflas (Yano), who received him well. A small survey party accompanied him, and a considerable area was newly mapped. The eastern Daflas (Tagen) were also visited by the Political Officer, and some new country was mapped.

The Apa Tanangs and hill Miris came down to the plains in their usual numbers for trade and work.

Naga Hills.

4. The transfrontier Semas and Sangtams continued to behave well, and the peace between the former and the Yimtsungr was not broken.

In the Konyak area, Totok and Chui continued to give trouble. They again, contrary to His Excellency's orders, used guns in their feuds, and were fined one hundred guns each.

The villages of the Nokhu-Nokluk tribe (a section of the Kalyo-Kengyu tribe) again gave serious trouble. Pangsha, which had been visited and burnt in 1936, combined with Ukha and Yungkao and wiped out the small village of Aghching, taking a large number of heads. The villages were visited by a column and suitably dealt with.

The Nagas were as eager to offer their services in the present war as they were in the last.

Lakhimpur Frontier Tract.

5. The Nagas in the administered area were well-behaved, but there were some cases of theft of rail by Rangpangs from across the frontier. The Borduria and Namsang Nagas gave no trouble.

SECTION 10.—Condition of the People

6. The general health of the people on the whole was fairly good. A small-pox epidemic broke out in Sylhet Town during the last winter with sporadic cases in Cachar. There were also sporadic cases of cholera both in Sylhet and Cachar and in some villages of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

In the Assam Valley the recrudescence of *kala azar* gave cause for alarm. It was reported from every district except Darrang and is said to be spreading rather rapidly. Mortality has risen. The Public Health Department however has taken steps to combat the further spread of the disease. Except for this public health was rather better than in the preceding year. The usual visitations of malaria, typhoid, dysentery and other such diseases common during the rains occurred as usual but without abnormal severity.

The material condition of the people in the Assam Valley remained much the same as in the previous year. The heavy reduction of revenue certainly gave some people some relief and had not prices of imported goods risen: the agriculturist population would have been doing very well. The war has had very little

Chap. I

Physical and Political Geography

effect on most of the people. There was no calamity of any kind and no distress. The material condition of the agriculturists of the Surma Valley showed a slight improvement owing to a good harvest and rise in the price of food-stuff and jute, but it was still below normal owing to a rise in the prices of imported goods and the continuance of the effects of the past floods. The condition of the middle class was still less satisfactory owing to rise in prices and gradual increase in unemployment.

Government made a considerable increase in the concession of general remission of land revenue on account of the economic depression.

Four Debt Conciliation Boards—3 in Gauhati subdivision and one in North Sylhet—worked throughout the year. Some others, lately established, have either just begun working or are preparing to do so.

SECTION 11.—The Assam Public Service Commission

The Assam Public Service Commission, 1939-40.

7. The Commission incurred a total expenditure of Rs.69,534-12-0 during the year.

It dealt with 228 cases of appointments, including promotions, 8 disciplinary cases and 25 miscellaneous references, including those on claims for reimbursement of costs incurred by Government servants in defending legal proceedings instituted against them. Besides conducting the Departmental examinations of officers, the Commission held examinations in connection with recruitment to services and posts. It also held tests in connection with the award of three scholarships tenable at the Medical College, Calcutta, and one stipendiary studentship at the Forest College, Dehra Dun, and advised Government in connection with the selection of candidates for admission to the Medical College, Calcutta, and to the post-graduate courses in the Imperial Agricultural Institute, New Delhi.

Chap. II — Administration of the land

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

SECTION I.—Realisation of Revenue

[*See* Report of the Land Revenue Administration, Assam, for the year ending the 30th June 1940.]

General.

8. An account of the demand and collection of Land Revenue will be found in Chapter V—" Revenue and Finance ".

The total nett increase in the settled area of the Province as a whole amounted to 68,061 acres of which 63,343 acres were in the Assam Valley, 4,598 acres in the Surma Valley and 120 acres in the Frontier Tracts of Sadiya and Balipara. The increase in the Assam Valley was shared by all the districts and was mainly due to the extension of ordinary cultivation and that in the Surma Valley was due to new settlements. The area for special cultivation decreased to the extent of 4,527 acres in the Assam Valley while there was a small increase in the Surma Valley. The gross revenue demand was Rs.1,29,04,072 against Rs.1,27,63,613 in the last year but after giving effect to an increased temporary remission the current demand fell to Rs.89,06,741.

Colonisation.

9. The working of the colonisation schemes in Nowgong and Mangaldai continued smoothly during the year and brought in an appreciable amount in the form of premium for settlement of land.

In Mangaldai an area of 5,543 *bighas* was included in the scheme to provide lands for those immigrants whose lands were washed away by the Brahmaputra. This settlement was made without premium. The area allotted during the year was 4,020½ *bighas* ; 35,843 *bighas* were held under annual pattas with a revenue demand of Rs.14,046. The total collection of premium during the year was Rs.59,061 against Rs.51,133 in the preceding year.

In Nowgong 4,108 *bighas* were allotted to landless immigrants against 1,127 *bighas* in the preceding year. The premium collected during the year was Rs.55,224 against Rs.9,152 in the previous year. Eight hundred and thirteen periodic *pattas* covering an area of 9,238 *bighas* with a revenue demand of Rs.7,269 (including local rates) were issued during the year. An area of 34,590 *bighas* of land in 56 villages ripe for issue of periodic *pattas* is awaiting survey and classification next year.

In Barpathar an area of 2,180 acres of land was allotted during the year to the new and old colonists. The total collection of premium was Rs.1,414 against Rs.2,392 in the preceding year.

Permanently-settled estates.

10. The total number of permanently-settled estates was 49,652 against 49,667 in the preceding year. Of these 49,632 with an area of 2,399,623 acres and revenue of Rs.3,59,234 are situated in the Surma Valley. The decrease in the number of estates, in the area and in the demand occurred in the Surma Valley and was due to the fact that 15 estates with an area of 13 acres and land revenue of Rs.4 were purchased by Government at sales for arrears of revenue. In the Assam Valley there were 20 estates covering 1,519,410 acres in area and bearing a revenue of Rs.11,423.

Coercive measures.

11. The result of coercive measures employed for the collection of land revenue during the year under report was as follows :—

—	Number of warrants of attachment issued	Number of cases in which moveable properties were actually sold	Number of cases in which estates were sold
Assam Valley including Frontier Tracts.	44,466	1,977	1,361
Surma Valley	23,367	69	608

There was a rise in the number of warrants of attachment issued and of the cases in which the estates were sold this year.

Revenue process.

12. The number of revenue processes rose from 319,963 to 350,846 and the fees from Rs.1,68,633 to Rs.1,97,042.

Miscellaneous revenue.

13. The demand for miscellaneous revenue increased from Rs.23,03,004 to Rs.25,94,600 ; of this Rs.22,41,007 were collected and Rs.53,000 were remitted.

Chap. II

Administration of the land

SECTION 2.—Survey and Settlement

14. There were no major resettlement operations during the year.

Settlement.

Extension survey was carried out by the Land Records staff as usual in all the districts. The total area thus surveyed during the year under report was 23·92 square miles as against 74·02 square miles in the previous year.

SECTION 3.—Land Records

15. The total sanctioned number of Supervisor Kanungos remained the same as in the previous year namely 90.

The total sanctioned strength of recorders rose to 1,237 against 1,231 in the preceding year. There was decrease in the number of non-resident recorders due to the increase in the number of exemptions granted during the year, but it would be better if non-residency and exemptions be abolished entirely.

SECTION 4.—Settlement of land for Special Cultivation (Waste Land)

16. Owing to the restrictions imposed by the Tea Control Act no application in the Assam Valley for settlement of land for special cultivation was entertained excepting one in the Golaghat subdivision for settlement of 100 acres as an extension of cultivation for which sanction had been given.

In the Surma Valley there were two applications in Cachar which remained pending at the close of the year.

The total area for special cultivation decreased by 4,521 acres, but there was an increase of Rs.14,288 in revenue which was mainly due to progressive enhancement of revenue in the Assam Valley: there was also an insignificant increase of 6 acres in area and Rs. 10 in revenue in the Surma Valley due to new settlement.

Agricultural loans.

17. Agricultural loans issued during the year amounted to Rs.28,957 against Rs.4,85,123 in the preceding year. The principal and interest under the Agriculturists' Loans Act due for recovery during the year amounted to Rs. 6,73,583 of which Rs. 1,56,297 was collected, Rs. 14,078 remitted, Rs. 1,52,053 held under suspension and the balance was carried over. The amount realised was rather small owing to the bad financial condition of the people in general due to effects of flood.

Other revenue works.

18. No irrigation, drainage or embankment work was undertaken during the year. A bund, in a low-lying area of Sylhet, which was taken up in the previous year was however completed and some projects in the Assam Valley were under examination by the newly-created Embankment and Drainage Division.

Partition.

19. The statement below shows the details of partition cases dealt with during the year :—

Pending at the close of the year	Instituted during the year	Total	Disposed of during the year	Pending at the close of the year
348	513	861	444	417

SECTION 5.—Government Estate

Nil

SECTION 6.—Wards and Attached Estates

[*See* Report on the Administration of the Court of Wards' Estates in the Province of Assam for the year 1939-40 and the Resolution thereon.]

20. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards remained the same (*viz*., 12) as in the previous year, but, after the close of the year six more encumbered estates in Sylhet were taken over.

Revenue, Rent and Cesses.

21. The demand on account of rents and cesses due to all the estates amounted to Rs. 28,11,321, (including an arrear demand of Rs.18,22,329) as compared with Rs. 20,96,372 in the previous year.

Collection.

22. Out of the total demand, a sum of Rs. 8,88,398 or 90·73 per cent. of the current demand was realised.

Chap. II

Administration of the land

Debts.

23. The extent by which the different estates reduced their debts during the year is given below :—

Name of Estate	Reduction during the year including interest	Debt outstanding at the end of the year including arrear of interest
	Rs.	Rs.
Bijni Raj	58,846	Nil
Mechpara	1,093	1,93,753
Srirgram Barua	9,487	1,06,303
Darrang Raj	1,820	16,866
Nripa	3,000	21,519
Mazumdari Syedia	10,184	76,079
Mazumdari Baniyachong	6 (Interest only).	18,058
Dastidar	9,247	1,49,660
Dewan Manikchand	Nil	*(18,62,137)

*Not yet finally ascertained.

Management

24. In the Surma Valley estates the percentage of cost of management was 18·99 per cent. while in the bigger estates in the Assam Valley it was 13·9 in Mechpara and 14·5 in Bijni.

General.

25. Both Bijni and Mechpara Estates continued to spend a part of their income on works of public utility and for the improvement of the conditions of tenants. Bijni Estate spent Rs.79,521 and Mechpara Rs.9,528 representing 14 and 4 per cent. respectively of their rent rolls—on Education, Medical, Agriculture, Sanitation and other works of improvement, besides making liberal gifts of timber for public purposes. No contributions of this sort could be spared in the other impoverished estates.

In the Surma Valley, one village of the Companyganj Circle and two villages under the Khatkhai Circle of the Dastidar Estate were resurveyed during the year and records-of-right were corrected according to actual possession of land by tenants.

In the Assam Valley, the records-of-rights in the surveyed areas of the Mechpara Estate were maintained up-to-date as in the preceding year and some extension survey was done in other non-cadastral areas of the estate.

The relaying of the common boundary between Chapor Estate and Mechpara is still in progress.

The preparation of records-of-rights for the entire Bijni Estate has become an urgent necessity and the matter is engaging the attention of the management. As in previous years, the boundary disputes between the estate and the neighbouring zemindars and other tenure holders still continued.

In the Srirgram Barua Estate no regular survey was undertaken for lack of funds.

In the Darrang Raj Estate, the general survey was completed last year.

The Bijni appeal before the Privy Council which was expected to be heard early this year, has not yet been actually taken up for hearing.

During the year, Babu Jamini Kanta Roy Dastidar, one of the proprietors of the Dastidar Estate, died, leaving behind a widow and five sons who were subsequently declared wards. By virtue of a will of the late Kumar Chhatra Singh Nripa of Jaintia, his younger daughter, Raj Kumari Ira Devi became proprietress

Chap. II

Administration of the land

of the entire Nripa Estate. On his own petition, half of the share of Maulavi Idris Bukht Majumdar, a ward of Majumdari Syedia Estate, was transferred in favour of his wife Musstt. Jubeda Khatun, who was also subsequently declared a ward.

SECTION 7.—Revenue and Rent paying classes

26. The Goalpara Tenancy Act, the Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenanay Act and the Sylhet Tenancy Act were in force throughout the year. The relationship between the tenants and landlords was on the whole satisfactory. But in some parts of the Sylhet district agitation by the tenants to secure further concessions from the landlords continued.

SECTION 8.—The Assam Revenue Tribunal

27. The total cost of the Tribunal for the financial year 1939-40 was Rs.52,871. Sixty-seven appeals were pending at the close of the year 1938-39 and 592 appeals were received during the year. Of these 442 were disposed of, leaving 217 pending at the close of the year.

SECTION 9.—Political Report of the District of Sylhet

Boundary disputes between the Assam and Tripura Governments.

28. A determined effort was made to put an end to these disputes which have gone on at intervals for the last seventy years, and an arrangement was made between the two Governments to have the outstanding points of disagreement settled by reference to an Arbitration Board constituted by the Director, Eastern Circle, Survey of India. The Board having given their award in favour of Assam, steps are being taken in collaboration with the Tripura State to give effect to it and renotify the whole boundary in due course.

29. The following cases that were not included in the terms-of-reference to the Board are also in the course of settlement :—

The dispute following the change of course of the Juri river is under investigation.

30. *Khoiyajuri river case.*—This is already in an advanced stage of settlement.

31. *The Iktiarpur-Dopanimara case.*—Settlement has already been arrived at and the final report and maps were prepared by this Government representative, but as the Tripura State objected to the procedure it has been arranged that the representatives of both Governments should meet again for the purpose of preparing a joint final report.

Chap. III

Protection.

CHAPTER III

PROTECTION

SECTION 1.—Legislative Authority

[*See* General Administration Report 1938-39, Part II, Page 8.]

SECTION 2.—Course of Legislation

32. In the year under report there were three Sessions of the Assam Legislative Council in the months of May and August 1939 and February-March-April 1940 and one Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly in the months of February-March 1940, and there was a joint session of both the Chambers in the month of August 1939, which passed the Assam Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1939.

Acts and Bills passed.

33. The following Bills were passed by both the Chambers of the Assam Legislature in the different Sessions during the year 1939-40 :—

(1) The Assam Commissioners' Powers Distribution Bill, 1939,

(2) The Assam Ministers' Salaries Bill, 1939,

(3) The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1938,

(4) The Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Bill, 1939,

(5) The Assam Sales Tax Bill, 1939,

(6) The Assam Amusements and Betting Tax Bill, 1939,

(7) The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1939,

(8) The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1939,

(9) The Assam Agricultural Income-tax Bill, 1939,

(10) The Assam Finance Bill, 1939.

These have since become Acts I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X of 1939.

SECTION 3.—Police

ASSAM RIFLES

[*See* Report on the Police Administration in Assam for 1939.]

34. The temporary reduction on the grounds of economy continued and at the end of the year the force was four officers (3 British and 1 Indian) below the full sanctioned strength and 102 men in excess. This excess was however temporary and on a man-day basis the force was actually under strength for the greater part of the year.

One post of Assistant Commandant remained vacant in the 1st (Lushai Hills) Battalion throughout the year. In the 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion one post of Assistant Commandant was kept unfilled throughout the year as a measure of economy under the orders of Government and another post could not be filled for the greater part of the year owing to dearth of applicants. The 2nd Battalion also suffered from a shortage of British officers for a part of the year.

Educational training achieved a high standard although training was hampered in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions due to parts of the force being on duty at Digboi and Tinsukia.

The number of men enlisted rose from 341 in 1938 to 490 during the year. Kukis came in voluntarily for enlistment but suitable Assamese recruits were difficult to obtain. The Khasi recruits did very well.

There was a total absence of "Desertion" and the numbers of "Resignations", "Discharges" and "Dismissals" markedly decreased. Ten deaths occurred against 8 in the previous year. Considerable improvement in discipline was observed.

There was on the whole a marked improvement in the "man-days" lost due to sickness. Preventive measures against malaria continued to occupy attention.

No military operations involving the force were undertaken during the year. A detachment of varying strength was however posted at Digboi for the greater part of the year, while the detachments on duty at Sylhet and Silchar in connection with communal tension were withdrawn in April, 1939.

POLICE

[*See* Report on the Police Administration in the Province of Assam for the year 1939]

35. The sanctioned strength of the Police force was 4,498 against 4,474 in 1938 while the actual strength was 4,380 against 4,335. The proportions between Police and area, population and cognizable crime investigated were 11·39 sq. miles, 1,903·90 and 3·70 respectively. No change was made in the number of Police stations. There was an improvement in the number of Muslim recruits from 49 to 76. The Police had a new burden to face in the labour unrest which affected the oilfields and tea gardens in Lakhimpur and Cachar and in the last part of the year they were called upon to deal with the tasks of controlling foreigners and protecting life and property which arose with the European war. Although a small force was sanctioned by the Central Government for certain duties resultant from the outbreak of war, in the main the additional burden, including the needs of the Digboi oilfields during the strike, had to be met by the normal staff (with the assistance of the Assam Rifles) to the detriment of their normal duties and the year was on the whole a strenuous one for the force. Strength.

36. The health of the Police continued to improve and the discipline was generally satisfactory. Health and Conduct.

There was a drop in total casualties from 218 to 214 and the admissions to hospital from 1,184 to 1,160. Housing conditions of the force continued very defective in many places.

The number of escapes from Police custody was slight, as last year. There were 64 complaints against the Police against 63 in 1938. Both judicial and departmental punishments decreased from 17 and 1,206 to 12 and 1,111 respectively and dismissals fell from 28 to 25. The standard of work achieved by the Inspectors showed an improvement during the year.

37. On the Railways the number of true cases decreased from 413 to 402, the total railway accidents from 390 to 325 and persons killed from 81 to 73, though cases of obstruction rose from 24 to 35 and in some instances have given cause for anxiety. Railways.

38. There was no river dacoity during the year and the staff continued to keep a close watch on the members of the criminal tribes gangs and other bad characters. River Police.

39. The chaukidari system despite its defects was on the whole well conducted. The number of chaukidars was 6,497 against 6,503 in 1938 and the total cost of their maintenance was Rs.4,06,170 against Rs.3,91,455 in the preceding year. There was a marked fall in the number of punishments, from 2,740 to 2,538. Rural Police.

40. The total cost of the Police (other than Assam Rifles) for 1939-40 showed an increase of Trs. 2,07 as compared with the expenditure for the year 1938-39. The expenditure on new construction increased from Rs.31,917 to Rs.51,388 but that under repairs showed a slight decrease. Finance.

41. The total number of cognizable cases under Class I—V reported to the Police and instituted in Courts rose from 23,269 to 25,321 during the year and the convictions therefor from 5,473 to 5,626. Serious crime also showed an increase from 8,863 to 10,101 particularly under burglary, ordinary theft, cattle theft, robbery and murder. Crime.

The percentage of conviction in Police cases actually rose from 62·10 to 62·99, although the percentage of cases which came to trial fell from 28·94 to 27·3. The number of Police cases declared false rose from 696 to 751 but the percentage of prosecution against complainants ending in conviction fell from 34·71 to 29·16.

42. The percentage of cases remanded more than six times rose from 9·09 to 10·69, while cases disposed of at the first two hearings fell from 39·04 to 37·84 during the year. Disposal of cases.

43. Owing to the introduction of the new Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, which come into force on the 1st July 1939, a special officer was appointed to draft rules under the Motor Vehicles Act and a staff of 9 Sub-Inspectors, 7 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 8 constables was sanctioned earlier in the year to cope with the work of the department. The number of motor vehicles on the road was 5,872 against 5,668 while the number of motor accidents fell from 295 to 215. Fifty-seven persons were killed and 423 injured as compared with 59 and 414 respectively in 1938. Nine Sub-Inspectors were deputed for a period of three months to undergo training in Motor Mechanics to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales Motor Vehicles.

Protection.

Technical School at Jorhat. Weighbridges were installed at Nongpoh on the Gauhati-Shillong road and at Pynursla on the Shillong-Sylhet road. The receipts from the taxation act rose from Trs. 2,79,036 to Trs. 3,17,703.

Criminal Investigation Department.

44. The officers of the Intelligence Branch were engaged in dealing with intricate cases of crime. Agrarian troubles continued in the Sylhet district. The organisation of a no-rent campaign in that district and the growth of labour unrest gave cause for much anxiety. The difficulty has been growing still more obvious in a variety of ways in the unsettled conditions arising from the world war and the impasse in Indian politics.

Miscellaneous

45. Village Defence Parties, particularly in Sylhet and Kamrup, attained some measure of success and the Finger Print Bureau and the Photographic Bureau continued to do useful work.

SECTION 4.—Criminal Justice

[*See* High Court's Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the province of Assam during the year 1939]

Staff.

46. The permanent Judicial Staff employed on criminal work in Assam during the year consisted of two Sessions Judges, one Additional Sessions Judge, one Assistant Sessions Judge, eight District Magistrates, ninety-six Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates and twenty-two Honorary Magistrates. Besides these one temporary Additional Sessions Judge worked in the Assam Valley from the beginning of the year till the 22nd December 1939. Three Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge were also employed, *viz.*, one in the Assam Valley throughout the year exclusive of the civil court vacation, and two in Sylhet and Cachar for 14½ days.

Offences.

47. The following statement gives the principal statistics for the last three years:—

Year	Cases reported including those pending from previous year	Cases reported as true	Cases brought to trial	Percentage of persons convicted to persons tried
1	2	3	4	5
1939	57,122	43,213	30,350	31·10
1938	55,378	41,325	29,939	31·58
1937	52,657	39,316	28,952	32·49

Magistrates Courts.

48. Including cases committed to the Sessions, 30,072 cases were disposed of during the year.

The number of persons whose cases were decided was 53,732. Of this 16,502 or 30·7 per cent. were convicted. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 40·1 against 42·5 in 1938.

The number of witnesses examined was 81,163. Of the total number of witnesses who attended, 69·5 per cent. were discharged on the first day of trial. The total number detained for more than three days was 1,083.

The aggregate amount of fines imposed fell from Rs.2,13,416 in the previous year to Rs.1,84,185. The total amount of fines realised, including arrears of previous years was Rs.1,35,346 of which Rs.17,391 was paid as compensation to complainants.

Courts of Sessions.

49. The number of cases disposed of during the year was 318 against 357 in the previous year. The number of persons tried was 808. Of the persons tried 450 were convicted and 321 were discharged or acquitted and the cases of 37 persons were referred for orders of the High Court. Sentence of death was passed on 8 persons in eight cases. During the year the High Court disposed of 6 cases involving 6 persons of whom 3 persons were sentenced to death, two to transportation or penal servitude and one was acquitted.

Twenty-three persons were sentenced in the Sessions Court to transportation or penal servitude, 455 persons were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment or other punishments.

The number of witnesses examined was 3,079 against 3,434 in the previous year. Protection

50. Nine appeals were pending before the High Court from the previous year, and 100 were preferred during the year. Of these, 89 were disposed of during the year, leaving 20 pending at its close. Of the appeals disposed of, 64 were summarily dismissed; in 4 cases the decision of the lower courts were modified, in 12 confirmed and in 8 reversed and 1 case was remanded for retrial. Appellate Jurisdiction. (i) High Court.

51. The number of appeals disposed of in the Courts of Sessions was 1,068 against 1,128 in the previous year. The number of persons involved was 2,020. The orders of the lower courts were confirmed in the case of 1,388 persons, modified in the case of 245 and reversed in the case of 355. The cases of 32 persons were otherwise disposed of. (ii) Court of Sessions.

52. The District Magistrates disposed of the appeals of 303 persons. Of the persons concerned 180 or 59·4 per cent. were altogether unsuccessful, 67 or 22·1 per cent. were obtained a reversal and 34 or 11·2 per cent. a modification of their original sentences. The cases of 22 persons were otherwise disposed of. (iii) District Magistrates.

53. Applications for revision of orders passed by lower courts were decided by the High Court in 141 cases, by the Sessions Courts in 423 cases and by the District Magistrates in 147 cases. Revision.

54. The expenditure in the criminal courts amounted to Rs.6,19,905 and receipts to Rs.3,03,530. Compared with the figures of 1938, the charges and receipts show a decrease by Rs.10,487 and Rs.9,823 respectively. Receipts and Expenditure.

55. In the hill districts and frontier tracts there were 1,732 cases, in which 2,484 persons were tried. Of the persons tried, 1,636 were convicted and 848 acquitted or discharged. Hill districts and Frontier Tracts.

56. The number of cases brought to trial was 53 of which 485 were decided and 47 remained pending at the close of the year. Four cases were decided in the Sessions Court. Shillong Division.

The number of witnesses examined was 688 and none was detained for more than three days.

Of the persons tried, 120 were acquitted or discharged and 410 were convicted. The cases of 4 persons in the Sessions Court ended in the conviction of 3 persons and acquittal of one person. All the appeals and motions filed during the year have been disposed of.

The total amount of fines imposed was Rs.9,566 of which Rs.5,702-7-3 was realised and Rs.438-8-0 was paid as compensation.

The charges in the criminal courts amounted to Rs.757 and the receipts to Rs.10,430.

SECTION 5.—Jails

[*See* Report on the Jail Administration of Assam for the year ending the 31st December 1939]

57. The number of prisoners of all classes increased from 3,161 at the end of the year 1938 to 3,371 at the close of 1939. The daily average number confined fell from 3,304 to 3,216 of whom 2,634 were convicts, 580 under-trials, 1 civil and 1 State prisoners. Population.

58. The number of persons imprisoned was 4,273 as compared with 4,245 in 1938. The percentage of Hindus and Sikhs fell from 55 to 50 while that of Muslims rose from 38 to 43. The percentage of prisoners under 21 years of age rose from 6·79 per cent. in 1938 to 6·81 per cent. in 1939. Habituals formed 17·20 per cent. of convict admissions, against 16·94 in 1938. The proportion of convicts to the free population of the province in 1939 was 1 to 2,164. Convicts.

Ten children under 16 years and 291 adolescents between 16 and 21 years of age were sentenced to imprisonment. Two children of under 16 years of age were transferred to the Hazaribagh Reformatory School for detention.

59. The daily average number of under-trials rose from 495·52 in 1938 to 579·56 in 1939. The average period of detention in Magistrates' cases rose from 21·23 days in 1938 to 21·61 days in 1939. Under-trials.

60. The number of civil prisoners was 20 in 1938 and 16 in 1939. None remained in the custody at the close of the year. Civil Prisoners.

Discipline. 61. Out of 17,027 prisoners there were six escapes against one in the previous year. The escaped prisoners except two were re-captured. There was a decrease in the total number of offences committed by convicts, *viz.*, from 1,074 in 1938 to 974 in 1939. The revision of long-term sentences by Advisory Boards continued to result in a general raising of the standard of the long-term prisoners' work and conduct. Seventy convicts were prematurely released on the recommendation of these Boards. The Good Conduct Prisoners' Probational Release Act, 1938, was brought into force during the year and one prisoner was released under section of the Act.

The numbe. of convicts who came under the remission system during the year fell from 1,973 in 1938 to 1,701 in 1939. One convict failed to earn remission owing to continued bad conduct in jail. The average period of remission earned rose from 63 days in 1938 to 64 days in 1939.

Aid on discharge. 62. The Assam Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society continued its work. The financial aid given to 16 *ex*-convicts to enable them to purchase ploughing cattle or tools, etc., amounted to Rs.489-7-0 by the Assam Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society and Rs.170-6-0 by the District Committees.

Education of convicts. 63. The seven temporary teachers, three of whom were confirmed during the year continued to give elementary instructions to prisoners of 30 years of age and under. The working and the progress of the jail schools show a distinct improvement during the year under report. As in the previous year a sum of Rs.300 was allotted for the improvement of jail libraries during the year.

Health. 64. The daily average sick rose from 2·3 per cent. in 1938 to 2·4 per cent. in 1939; the total number of deaths rose from 64 to 85. The arrangement by which the combined administrative and medical charge of the jails at Subdivisional Headquarters was held by the Subdivisional Medical Officers continued to work satisfactorily.

Finance. 65. The gross expenditure (excluding expenditure on buildings and forms) rose from Rs.3,97,968 to Rs. 4,06,586. The average cost per head increased from Rs.120-7-2 to Rs.126-7-0. There was a slight increase in the earnings of jail labour which mainly accrued from the realisation of the dues outstanding from the previous year and also from the co-operation of other Government Departments and the public in purchasing jail manufactured articles. The net cost of maintenance rose from Rs.3,76,565 to Rs.3,80,925 and the average net cost per head of average strength rose from Rs.113-8-0 to Rs.118-7-0 in 1939.

SECTION 6.—Civil Justice

[*See* High Court's Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Assam during the year 1939.]

Staff. 66. The permanent Civil Judicial Staff of the province consisted of two District Judges, one Additional District Judge, nine Subordinate Judges and twenty-four Munsifs. Both the District Judges, one Additional District Judge, two Subordinate Judges, and ten Munsifs were members of the Bengal cadre and the others were officers of the Assam cadre. In addition to the permanent staff one temporary Additional District Judge, two temporary Additional Subordinate Judges and one temporary Additional Munsif were entertained during the year.

Suits. 67. The number of original suits instituted in the province was 35,832 against 35,917 in the previous year. Of the total number of suits instituted 17,237 were suits for money or movables, 13,696 were rent suits and 4,899 title and other suits. The number of suits valued at sums not exceeding Rs.100 was 27,995. Out of 48,544 suits for disposal 37,046, excluding transfers, were disposed of during the year. The number of suits pending over one year rose from 174 to 226, and the total pending file rose from 9,654 to 9,802.

Of the suits disposed of 4,559 were fully tried, the remaining 32,488 ending in compromise, arbitration, *ex-parte* decision, etc. Of the suits decided after full trial 76·3 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs.

Miscellaneous cases. 68. There were 5,295 miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature, of which, excluding transfers, 4,167 were disposed of and 929 remained pending at the close of the year.

Appeals. 69. Of the 665 appeals for disposal, 184 were decided by the High Court, 137 being appeals from decrees and 47 appeals from orders.

70. Of the appeals decided, 60 were summarily rejected, 13 were dismissed for default, 5 were compromised and the order of the lower courts was affirmed in 52 cases, reversed in 24 and varied in 9, 20 cases were remanded for rehearing and one case was withdrawn. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 480. (a) In the High Court.

71. Excluding transfers there were 1,466 appeals before the civil appellate courts in the Province and of this number 1,195 were disposed of. The decisions of the lower courts were affirmed in 690 cases, modified in 146 and reversed in 189 cases; 113 appeals were dismissed or not prosecuted and the other cases were remanded to the lower courts. At the close of the year 271 cases remained pending. (b) In Courts subordinate to the High Court.

72. The receipts in the civil courts fell from Rs.8,31,933 in 1938 to Rs.8,01,465 in 1939 while the expenditure fell from Rs.4,64,129 to Rs. 4,63,364. The expenditure figures represent direct charges only and are exclusive of such items as the cost of maintenance of Government buildings, salaries of Extra Assistant Commissioner-Munsifs and pensionary charges. Receipts and expenditure.

73. In the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts the number of suits fell from 936 to 887 and their value from Rs.1,42,758 to Rs.1,12,577. Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts.

The total number of appeals for disposal was 81, of which 20 were summarily dismissed or withdrawn and 4 remained pending at the close of the year. In the 57 cases not decided summarily the decisions of the lower courts were affirmed in 31, reversed in 7 and modified in 14 and 5 cases were remanded to the lower court for rehearing.

SECTION 7.—Registration

[*See* Report on the working of the Registration Department of the Province of Assam for the year ending 31st December 1939, Report on the working of the Assam Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, IX of 1935, the Kazis Act XII of 1880 and the Special Marriage Act III of 1872 in the Province of Assam for the year ending 1939.]

74. The number of offices at work at the end of the year under review was 47 as compared with 45 in the preceding year. Registration General.

75. The number of documents registered increased from 98,709 in the preceding year to 1,14,937 during the year under report, *i.e.*, an increase of 16,228 documents or 16·44 per cent. more than the preceding year's figure and their aggregate value increased from Rs.163,77,697 to Rs. 1,83,38,707 or an increase of Rs.19,61,010. The increase in the number of documents registered was attributed to good economic condition and to the establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards. The increase in Sylhet and Nowgong was particularly due respectively to the registration of documents relating to Madan Raja and Md. Natir Estates purchased by Government in revenue sales and to the rise in the price of jute owing to the present war and increase in the value was due to the increase in the number of documents registered. Documents.

76. The total receipt for the year excluding refunds amounted to Rs.1,86,633 against Rs. 1,66,278 in the previous year. The expenditure (including refunds of Rs.665) increased to Rs.1,46,047 during the year as compared with Rs.1,42,606 (including refunds of Rs.468) in the preceding year. The increase was due partly to the periodical increment drawn by officers and staff and partly due to the entertainment of extra writers in copying out the documents registered. The increase in expenditure to some extent was due to the opening of new offices during the year under report. Receipts and Expenditure.

77. The number of offices at work at the close of the year increased to 49 from 48 in the preceding year. The increase was due to the opening of an office at Tarabari in the district of Kamrup. The number of ceremonies registered during the year under report under the Assam Act IX of 1935 was 8,214 as compared with 8,328 in the preceding year. The decrease is probably attributable to the economic condition of the people. Moslem Marriages and Divorces Registration Act.

78. There were two marriages registered in the province—one in Sylhet and another in Khasi and Jaintia Hills as compared with one case only of marriage in the preceding year. Special Marriage Act.

Protection

SECTION 8.—Municipal Administration

[*See* Resolution reviewing the Report on the Working of Municipalities in Assam during the year 1939-40, Statistics of British India, Volume IV.]

79. The number and constitution of the Municipal Bodies remained unchanged except that with the enlargement of the Habiganj Municipal area the number of elected members was increased by one. Sylhet Board remained under supersession and Habiganj Board was re-established after the period of supersession. Election of members was introduced in the Nalbari Small Town.

80. Small Town election rules were revised and amendments were made in the Municipal election rules. Section 241 of the Assam Municipal Act was extended to Sylhet. A notification amending certain sections of the Assam Municipal Act so as to distribute the functions of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Divisions, with regard to the municipal bodies of that division, was issued under the Assam Commissioner's Power Distribution Act (Assam Act I of 1939). The rules were amended accordingly.

81. The number of meetings fell from 308 to 289 in the Assam Valley and from 164 to 143 in the Surma Valley. The number of abortive meetings was 19 against 20 and that of meetings adjourned 20 against 28. The average percentage of attendance of non-official members fell from 68 to 66 in the Assam Valley and from 60 to 55·92 in the Surma Valley and that of 'expert advisers' fell from 12 to 11 in the Assam Valley and rose from 19 to 21·97 in the Surma Valley. The highest percentage of attendance of non-officials was held by Habiganj among Municipalities and by North Lakhimpur among Small Towns.

82. The total income excluding grants from provincial revenues and opening balances increased from Rs. 5,97,062 to Rs. 6,31,998 in the Assam Valley and from Rs.4,79,394 to Rs.5,16,798 in the Surma Valley. The contribution from provincial revenues increased from Rs.1,25,219 to Rs.1,26,541 in the Assam Valley and from Rs.84, 563 to Rs.94,708 in the Surma Valley.

The expenditure excluding repayment of loans increased from Rs. 7,23,212 to Rs. 7,61,764 in the Assam Valley and from Rs. 5,63,331 to Rs. 6,42,103 in the Surma Valley. The large increase in the Surma Valley is explained by the refund made by the Shillong Board of Government grant of Rs. 45,350 towards a sewerage scheme and by the payment of arrear allowance of Rs.3,600 to two of its ex Vice-Chairmen.

83. No loan was granted to any Board except one of Rs. 15,000 to Jorhat for improvement of water-supply.

84. The financial position continued to be unsatisfactory. The liabilities of Dibrugarh, Sylhet, Gauhati and Sunamganj in particular were undesirably heavy. The Sunamganj Board could not maintain the prescribed minimum balance. The Sylhet Board's finances greatly improved under official management. It is reported that out of taxes totalling Rs. 56,105 which were outstanding on the date of supersession, a sum of Rs.53,265 was collected by the 31st March 1940 and liabilities to the extent of Rs. 35,015 incurred by the superseded Board were cleared by that date. The Gauhati Board's finances were in a very bad state. It had a debt of Rs. 65,500 on 1st April 1940. Dibrugarh in spite of its bad financial position continued to incur expenditure without regard to its resources and gave lavish remission of taxes.

The collection of taxes was generally below the usual standard. Tezpur was best with an outstanding balance of Rs. 32 only.

SECTION 9.—Local Boards

[*See* Resolution on the working of Local Boards for the year ending on the 31st March 1940 and Statistics of British India, Volume IV.]

Constitution.

85. There was no change in the number and constitution of Local Boards in the province during the year under report. The total number of meetings—ordinary and special—increased from 204 to 219. One meeting was abortive. The number of adjourned meetings was 11. There was a decrease in attendance of non-officials. The highest percentage of attendance was held by Dhubri and the lowest by Sibsagar.

Finance.

86. The financial position of the Boards continued to be unsatisfactory. The members of the Silchar and Habiganj Local Boards voted for increase of local rate by three pies and two pies in the rupee respectively. The financial position of Habiganj, Karimganj and Sunamganj was very bad.

Education.

87. Middle English Schools were fewer by one in the Surma Valley. Middle Varnacular Schools increased by 1 and Primary Schools by 246. The increase under the latter class was due to larger grants from provincial revenues for expansion of primary education.

Medical and Sanitation.

88. The number of dispensaries increased by three. These three were in the Assam Valley. The evergrowing demand for more medical aid remained unsatisfied for lack of money. Gifts from public-spirited persons helped to some extent. Collection of subscriptions for dispensaries was poor but the system of levying a one-anna fee on new patients is said to have been working well.

Epidemic cholera broke out in some parts of Sunamganj, but was controlled by the Subdivisional Medical Officer with the help of the Public Health and Local Board staff. There were epidemics of small-pox in North Sylhet, Karimganj, South Sylhet and Sunamganj.

Kala-azar and Leprosy cases continued to be treated in some of the Boards' dispensaries. The Leper Asylum at Barpeta is reported to be working fairly well. Steps were taken for starting a clinic at Dhubri for tuberculosis cases. There was a recrudescence of *kala-azar* in Golaghat. The Local Board and the Public Health Department took action to check the disease. An in-door hospital was established at Government's expense and the headquarters of the Assistant Director of Public Health were transferred temporarily to Golaghat.

Progress in respect of improving the existing sources and providing fresh sources of rural water-supply was maintained with the aid of Government of India's grant for rural uplift. Some of the Boards took over for maintenance ring and tube-wells constructed from this grant. Vaccination and re-vaccination continued as usual.

Public Works.

89. The expenditure on communication fell from Rs.5,77,410 to Rs.5,24,819 in the Assam Valley but rose from Rs.1,46,334 to Rs.1,57,465 in the Surma Valley. The net result is a fall of Rs.41,460.

Veterinary.

90. Veterinary work increased in popularity, as is shown by the increase in the number of inoculations and treatments. The demand for service is beyond the capacity of the staff available, but it was not possible to increase the staff for lack of money. There was no increase in the number of dispensaries except at Nowgong by two. A second Veterinary Assistant was appointed by the Hailakandi Board. Cases of cattle poisoning were reported at Sunamganj and the Board issued leaflets for distribution among the people to warn them against such poisoning. The Field Assistants—42 in number, appointed by Government—are reported to have given useful service.

Audit.

91. The accounts of all the Boards in the Surma Valley except North Sylhet and those of the Goalpara, Barpeta, Tezpur, Mangaldai, Nowgong, North Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh in the Assam Valley were audited during the year. The Examiner reports that the accounts were kept in good order. A case of retaining money in hand by a Tax-collector was detected by the Board's Office at Tezpur. The Tax-collector was eventually dismissed. A case of mis-appropriation in connection with the purchase of postage and service stamps from the Treasury was detected at Habiganj by the Examiner, Local Accounts. The clerk concerned was punished by the Board with reduction of pay and stoppage of increment for two years. The procedure of drawing cheques in favour of the Chairman and obtaining cash for purchase of stamps, etc., which facilitated the mis-appropriation has been changed.

General.

92. Proposal of the Tezpur Board not to give travelling allowance to members for attending meetings was vehemently opposed by some members.

With a view to enable the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to meet and discuss common problems, two conferences—one at Gauhati and the other at Sylhet—were called and presided over by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government.

Production and Distribution.

CHAPTER IV

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

SECTION I.—Agriculture and Horticulture

[*See* the Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1939-40.]

Staff.

93. Dr. Mitra was in charge of the Department throughout the year. Dr. H.K. Nandi was in charge of the Botanical Section throughout the whole year. The superior staff of the Department consisted of the Director of Agriculture, 3 Deputy Directors of Agriculture including Deputy Director of Agriculture, Livestock Section, 2 Economic Botanists, 1 Special Rural Uplift Officer and 1 Marketing Officer. The Economic Botanist, Assam, continued to be in charge of the chemical, mycological and entomological sections, in addition to his own duties, while the other Economic Botanist was in charge of the Deep Water Paddy Research Farm at Habiganj (jointly financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Provincial Government). There were 29 Agricultural Inspectors (as against 26 of the previous year) including one Fruit Inspector, one Inspector of Government Gardens and 5 Agricultural Inspectors, Livestock. There were also 2 Agricultural Instructors. There were 6 permanent Farm Managers and the number of permanent Scientific Assistants continued to be five, *viz.*, one each for the chemical, entomological and mycological and two for the botanical sections. The Entomological Assistant, temporarily placed in the Surma Valley during the previous year, continued to work there and the following temporary staff continued to work at the Deep Water Paddy Research Station, Habiganj and the Sugarcane Research Station, Jorhat (both jointly financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Provincial Government):—

One Chemical Assistant.

One Botanical Assistant.

One Farm Manager.

Two Assistant Farm Managers.

One Botanical Assistant.

One Botanical Field Assistant and five Fieldmen.

There were 85 Agricultural Demonstrators (as against 76 in the previous year) including 3 temporary Demonstrators for terraced rice cultivation. During the year under report, a temporary staff consisting of 2 Jute Inspectors and 5 Jute Demonstrators were engaged as in the previous year for jute development work to be carried on with funds provided by the Indian Central Jute Committee.

General.

94. Weather, on the whole, was favourable for crops. Droughts, insects and local floods of short duration, however, caused some damage to autumn and winter rice crops. Weather was unfavourable for jute in the beginning due to prolonged drought, but it improved afterwards to some extent. Weather was generally favourable for *rabi* crops and spring rice, although reports of some damage by insects were received from several places.

Cultivation of rice, rape, mustard and tea remained practically unchanged during the year under review, while that of jute increased.

The average yield per acre of all crops remained almost the same as that of last year.

Prices of agricultural produce did not show any marked rise during the year under report.

During the year under review, agricultural marketing survey reports on sugar and lac were submitted to the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India. These bring the total number of reports submitted to him to 29. Marketing survey of jute and cotton was under progress during the year, during which several marketing development schemes were in operation.

During the year under report no stipend was awarded for study of agriculture or animal husbandry. Of the five old stipendiaries of this Department at the Agricultural Institute, Allhabad, one passed the final B.Ag. examination in March, 1940. So at the close of the year there were four stipendiaries at the Agricultural Institute. The Agricultural Training Classes at Sylhet and Jorhat continued to work satisfactorily, during the year, with the fourth batch of students in each.

Production and Distribution.

95. During the year under report, the Department had three paddy experiment stations at Karimganj, Habiganj and Titabar, one research station at Jorhat, two fruit experiment stations at Shillong and Burnihat and three cattle breeding farms at Upper Shillong, Sylhet and Khanapara. There was also a cattle section attached to the reasearch station at Jorhat and a demonstration farm at Haflong. The attention of Government was attracted to the need for bringing the results of experiments achieved at several experimental stations within the reach of those for whom they were meant as of real practical importance and endeavours were made towards that end. And, Government accepted this as a matter of policy to increase facilities for enabling the people for utilising such results. Farms.

96. The main items of demonstration during the year were— Demonstration.

(1) Demonstration with improved varities of crops,

(2) Manurial demonstrations,

(3) Introduction of new crops,

(4) Introduction of better agricultural implements, and

(5) Demonstration of control measures for checking insect pests, etc.

About 3,000 demonstrations were carried out of which about 1,600 were with paddy, 671 with pulses, 136 with sugarcane, 113 with potato and 230 with jute. Demonstrations of the cultivation of *Boro* paddy in precarious amon paddy lands under irrigation by means of power pumps were continued during the year under report.

97. The Seed depots at Johat, Gauhati and Sylhet carried on satisfactorily during the year under report. Seeds, plants, manures, etc., were issued from the depots for demonstration and sale. The statement below shows the quantities of seeds, etc., of paddy, potato, vegetables and sugarcane issued during the year :— Seed Depots.

—	Quantity issued for demonstration	Quantity sold	Total
1. Paddy seed ...	1,397 mds. 29 srs 8 chs.	938 mds. 16 srs. 4 chs.	2,336 mds. 5 srs. 12 chs.
2. Potato seed ...	289 mds. 35 srs. 8 chs.	291 mds.	580 mds. 35 srs. 8 chs.
3. Vegetable seeds ...	2,152 packets and 9 srs. 13 chs.	30,333 packets and 1 md. 33 srs. 14 chs.	32,485 packets and 2 mds. 3 srs. 11 chs.
4. Sugarcane ...	2,89,977 setts.	Nil	2,89,977 setts.

A considerable amount of manures and some implements were also issued.

98. The activities of the Section consisted of supply, breeding and management of cattle, poultry and goats and sheep, and production of fodders. These operations were conducted in the Government Cattle Breeding Farms, Jail Dairies, Village Breeding Centres, Notified Grazing Reserves, through the Livestock Improvement Association of Assam, several Municipalities and Tea Estates and through individuals interested in the betterment of animal husbandry. Livestock.

A remarkable increase in the demand for better livestock was noticeable during the year. This was due mainly to the propaganda and demonstrations carried out by the Departments of Agriculture and Veterinary.

It is three years since the Livestock Improvemen Association has been organised in Assam. Membership of the Association fell during the year and consequently collection from subscription decreased.

The Association had, during the year, 591 bulls—133 purchased, 159 donated and 299 registered—which performed 4,443 recorded services. The total number of services performed by the bulls of the Livestock Improvement Association up to the 31st March 1940, came to 11,432.

Production and Distribution.

99. A 3-year scheme on animal nutrition, jointly financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Provincial Government, was sanctioned a few years back. Funds for the scheme were provided during the year under report, during which construction of buildings was taken up at the Khanapara Cattle Breeding Farm, where the investigation was to be carried out.

Rural Reconstruction Campaign.

100. The most important work undertaken during the year was the launching of the Rural Reconstruction Campaign. The work was taken up in 34 centres, in each of which an organiser was appointed to carry out the work according to the programme. The campaign was supervised under the direct supervision of the Special Rural Reconstruction Officer and the Deputy Directors of Agriculture. In every centre an Advisory Committee was formed with either the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer, as the case may be, as President, officers of all departments of Government being required to assist in making the scheme a success.

SECTION 2.—Co-operative Societies

[*See* Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies for 1939-40.]

Strength.

101. The number of societies of all types registered during the year was 70 against 83 of the preceding year. Forty-two societies (1 Mutual Benefit Society, 1 Fishery society, 1 Milk society and 39 Agricultural Credit Societies) were sent into liquidation, giving a net increase of 28 societies. Thus the number of societies of all kinds increased from 1,551 to 1,579. The membership, however, decreased from 61,624 to 60,644. The total working capital of all societies also decreased from Rs.88,25,203 to Rs.83,44,914.

Provincial and Central Banks.

102. The working capital of the Provincial Bank was Rs.3,40,523 against Rs.3,85,337 in the previous year and the number of societies affiliated to it increased from 53 to 54. Loans issued to the societies during the year amounted to Rs.13,500 against Rs.71,292 and the total amount of loans outstanding against them stood at Rs.2,55,598 against Rs.2,80,708 in the previous year.

As in the previous year, there were 18 Central Banks. The number of societies affiliated to them was 640 against 647 in the previous year. The number of individual members decreased from 1230 to 1218, the total working capital from Rs.23,07,355 to Rs.21,81,766 and the paid-up share capital from Rs.1,95,409 to Rs.1,87,720. Loans issued to societies during the year amounted to Rs.42,524 against Rs.55,679 in the previous year. The total amount of loans outstanding against societies stood at Rs.14,68,814 against Rs.15,77,007.

Agricultural Credit Societies.

103. The total number of these societies increased from 1,334 to 1,343 with a decrease in the number of members from 41,189 to 39,478. Their working capital also decreased from Rs.28,69,283 to Rs.25,84,108. Loans made to members during the year amounted to Rs.82,774 against Rs.88,789. Loans due from members stood at Rs.14,31,744 against Rs.16,46,675.

Non-agricultural Credit Societies.

104. The number of non-agricultural Credit Societies increased from 136 to 163 and their membership rose to 14,623 as against 13,614. The working capital decreased from Rs.26,56,971 to Rs.26,49,138. Loans issued to members during the year amounted to Rs.8,52,577 against Rs.8,63,835. The total loans outstanding against members stood at Rs.19,27,177 against Rs.19,12,348 in the previous year.

General.

105. There was no change in the general policy of the department, the main trend being consolidation and cautious expansion rather than rehabilitation of the movement and the movement passed through another critical year, the close of which saw it in no better condition than before due mainly to the dearth of deposits from outside and the inability or unwillingness of the borrowers to repay their loans.

SECTION 3.—Weather and Crops

Weather.

106. The weather, on the whole, was favourable for the crops. Drought, insects and local floods of short duration caused some damage to autumn and winter rice crops. The weather for jute, in the beginning was unfavourable due to prolonged drought but afterwards improved to some extent.

The weather for *Rabi* crops and spring rice was generally favourable although report of some damage by insects was received.

107. There was no compilation of crop statement except jute for the year 1939-40. The area under jute increased from 302,628 acres to 323,222 acres as compared with the previous year. The total area under tea during the year ending 31st March 1940 was 438,351 acres. Crops.

108. Both the provincial outturn and the percentage on normal outturns of all crops except that of jute have not been compiled. The outturn for jute was estimated at 58 against 54 of previous year. On the basis of this estimate the provincial outturn of jute is shown below :— Outturn.

Crops	Outturn	
	1938-39	1939-40
	In bales (of 400 lbs. each)	In bales (of 400 lbs. each).
Jute	569,800	660,700
Tea	116,500 (tons)	112,700 (tons).

109. The prices of agricultural produce did not show any appreciable rise during the year under report. Prices.

SECTION 4.—Forests

[*See* Progress Report of Forest Administration in Assam for the year 1939-40.]

110. The area of reserved and protected forests rose from 6,514 square miles to 6,666 square miles on balance of reservations and disforestations. Area and Settlement.

111. The advantages gained by the transfer of the Working Plan Officer to Shillong in June 1937 was again clearly demonstrated by the rapid progress made in the branch during the year. The revised working plans for Kachugaon and Haltugaon divisions were introduced on 1st October 1939 and the working plan for the Shillong Pine Forests was revised during the year. A preliminary inspection of the Darrang reserved forests was carried out. The Mechpara forest was examined and a report and a working scheme submitted. Working Plans.

112. A sum of Rs.40,049 was spent on the maintenance of 1,108¾ miles of roads and bridges against Rs.38,459 in the previous year. Rupees 4,617 was spent in new work on 28 miles of roads, paths and bridges against Rs.1,331 in the preceding year. Communications and buildings.

The total revenue earned by the Goalpara Tramway was Rs.44,123 against an expenditure of Rs.36,294 in the previous year. During the year the Tramway carried 1,65,971 cubic feet of timber as against 2,34,900 cubic feet that year. The closing of the line due to flood damage was responsible for the decrease in traffic. The length of the line remained the same, 44¾ miles.

A sum of Rs.28,118 was spent on the construction of new bridges as against Rs.16,201 in the previous year. Rupees 33,213 were spent upon repairs to buildings against Rs,40,982 in the preceding year.

113. Several improvements in silviculture and protection of fire such as early burning, were pursued and now appear firmly established. A total area of 917·5 acres was planted and 1,028 acres were regenerated by *Taungya*. The total area shown as artificially regenerated up to date is 21,563 acres and that naturally regenerated as 17,949 acres. Silviculture.

Marked progress has been made in evergreen regeneration in the Lakhimpur Division and the results are most promising. Darrang has since taken this up and a beginning is being made in Sibsagar. The area in hand at the beginning was 318 acres and this was extended by 353·4 acres during the year.

114. During the year revenue rose from Rs.16,69,298 to Rs.17,45,412 or three-quarters of a lakh higher than in the previous year. The main causes for the improvement lay in continuance of the economic working, better supervision, and the activities of the Forest Utilisation Section. Financial result.

General.

115. Elephant catching operations were carried out in several districts. In all 354 elephants were caught, 11 died and 24 were released. A total royalty of Rs.57,535 was realised as against Rs.63,165 in the previous year.

The royalty on 21,511 maunds of lac during the year amounted to Rs.26,673 against Rs.25,569 on 25,586 maunds of lac of the previous year

Preservation of wild life.

116. There were no changes in the numbers and area of sanctuaries during the year. In the Sonai-Rupai, Orang and Kaziranga sanctuaries game is reported to have increased. Revised closed seasons for wild birds and animals were introduced in the unclassed State Forests in order to fit in with the Reserved Forest Schedule.

SECTION 5.—Manufactures and Mines

117. Receipts from mineral oil were Rs.4,95,657 and from coal mines were Rs.1,03,585 against Rs.6,76,550 and Rs.86,688 respectively in the preceding year.

SECTION 6.—Factories

[*See* the Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934 in Assam for the 1939.]

118. There were 789 factories in the register against 783 in the previous year. During the year under review 9 new factories were added and 3 removed from the register. Of these 118 were perennial and 671 seasonal factories.

The average daily number of workers in the registered factories was 52,003 against 50,677 in the previous year, *i.e.*, an increase of 1,326. The adult males and females were increased whilst the adolescents and children decreased.

119. The number of certifying surgeons at the close of the year under review was 52 in the Assam Valley and 21 in the Surma Valley, an increase of 1 and 2 in each Valley respectively on the figures of 1938. The number of children certified was 597 and those rejected was 35 against 449 and 37 respectively in the previous year. The adolescents certified were 1,019 and those rejected were 50 against 710 and 39 respectively in the previous year.

The total number of accidents in the factories was 504 against 551 in the previous year. Of these, there were 3 fatal, 66 serious and 435 slight injuries, compared with 5 fatal cases, 102 serious and 444 slight injuries respectively in the previous year.

Under the Factories Act, several cases were started for prosecutions during the year and conviction was secured in six cases.

120. A serious situation arose in the oil fields and installation of the Assam Oil Company Limited at Digboi and Tinsukia in April. A strike of all workers including those in the factory broke out and at first was general, but it was soon possible to resume work at a reduced level with loyal labour and fresh recruitment. The end of the strike, conciliation proceeding having failed, came with the declarations of War and of the oil fields as a Protected Area.

There was no change in the staff of the Inspectorate during the year under report.

SECTION 7.—Workmen's Compensation

121. During the year under report Rs.27,348-3-3 was paid as compensation to the dependents of deceased workmen and to workmen permanently and temporarily disabled. Out of this amount Rs.11,288-0-6 was paid through Commissioners and Rs.16,060-2-9 by employers direct. The Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet, also received Rs.3,194-2-0 from Bengal, for payment to the dependents of certain deceased workmen and the payment was made during the year. The Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, transferred a sum of Rs.8,126-2-0 (Rs.579-10-0 to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet and Rs.7,546-8-0 to other Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation apparently outside Assam) for payment.

SECTION 8.—Boilers

Production and Distribution.

[See the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923 (Act V of 1923) in Assam for the year 1939-40.]

122. The total number of boilers in the registers on the 31st March 1940 was 951 against 956 in the previous year. The number of boilers condemned by the Department and discarded by the owners was 3 only. Eight hundred and thirty-seven boilers were inspected for renewal of certificates during the year. None of the Inspectors was on leave during the year.

SECTION 9.—Maritime Trade

Nil.

SECTION 10.—Rail and River-borne Trade

Nil.

SECTION 11.—Frontier Trade

Nil.

SECTION 12.—Public Works

1. Direction

123. The Hon'ble Maulavi Ali Haidar Khan remained in charge of the Public Works Department portfolio from the beginning of the year up to the 17th November 1939, the Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla, Kt., M.A., B.L., from the 18th November 1939 to the 4th December 1939, and the Hon'ble Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri, B. L., from the 5th December 1939 to the end of the year. Public Works Department portfolio.

124. Mr. K. E. L. Pennell, B.A., M.C., I.S.E., held charge of the office of the Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Assam in the Public Works Department throughout the year. Secretariat.

Mr. G. W. Gordon, B.SC., I.S.E., held the post of Assistant Chief Engineer and Under-Secretary to the Government in the Public Works Department throughout the year, and similarly Mr. Anath Bandhu Dutt held the post of Registrar.

125. Mr. A. A. Barnard, B.E., O.B.E., I.S.E., Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, held charge of the Northern Circle, in addition to his own duties, from the beginning of the year up to the 19th April 1939. He was then relieved of this additional charge from the 20th April 1939 by Mr. Ali Ahmed, B. A., I. S. E., on return from leave. Mr. Ali Ahmed, B.A., I.S.E., held charge of the Northern Circle from the 20th April 1939 to the 4th October 1939. Mr. F. E. Cormack, B.SC., I.S.E., on return from leave on the 5th October 1939 took over charge of the Northern Circle and relieved Mr. Ali Ahmed, B.A., I.S.E., who then took over charge of the Southern Circle. Superintending Engineers.

126. The permanent cadre of the Assam Engineering Service (Class I and Class II) as constituted with effect from the 1st August 1939 in Public Works Department Notification No. 122-E., dated the 18th July 1938, remained the same as in the previous year. Assam Engineering Service.

The services of Mr. H. G. Cocksedge, Executive Engineer, Assam Engineering Service, Class I and Mr. Kamaleswar Barua, B.E., Assistant Engineer, Assam Engineering Service, Class II, were placed at the disposal of the Military Department with effect from the 7th September 1939 and the 5th October 1939 respectively. Their places were filled up by the appointment of two temporary Engineers, *viz.*, Srijut Biraj Mohon Chakravarty, B. E. and Babu Satyendra Prasanna Das, B.E., on Rs. 250 each per mensem. The former joined his post on the 18th March 1940 and the latter on the 26th March 1940.

Revenue and Expenditure

127. Excluding a sum of Rs. 4,37,212 transferred from the Central Road Development account, the total revenue realised under various heads in the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 6,74,940 against Rs. 7,03,215 in the previous year. The total expenditure during 1939-40 under all provincial heads amounted to Rs. 48,60,627 of which Rs. 6,50,327 was spent on original works, Rs. 27,26,374 Revenue and expenditure.

Production and Distribution.

on repairs, Rs. 9,60,860 on Establishment and Rs. 69,690 on Tools and Plant, Rs. 4,53,376 represented other expenditure, suspense, etc. The expenditure under various heads was distributed as follows :—

Heads	Works	Repairs	Establishment	Tools and Plant	Other expenditure, suspense, etc.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PROVINCIAL	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Civil Works—Buildings.. ..	1,17,554	3,80,544	..	..	..	..
	4,98,098					
Communications—						
Petrol Tax Fund	4,15,212	..	..	..	..	..
Provincial Revenues	1,04,632	22,94,249	..	..	..	..
Total—Communications ..	5,19,844	22,94,249	9,45,998	68,637	4,46,311	..
	28,14,093					
Miscellaneous	2,217	8,261	..	..	..	..
Total—Civil Works ..	6,39,615	26,83,054	9,45,998	68,637	4,46,311	47,83,615
Public Health	2,196	7,013	2,657	188	..	12,054
	9,209					
Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works.	4,124	35,900	11,547	819	7,065	59,455
	40,024					
Deposit Works	4,392	407	658	46	..	5,503
	4,799					
Total—Provincial.. ..	6,50,327	27,26,374	9,60,860	69,690	4,53,376	48,60,627

Central Road Fund

Road Fund. 128. Since the inauguration of the Central Road Fund, the following grants have been received :—

Year	Allotments: General Fund	Allotments: Reserve Fund
	Rs.	Rs.
1929-30	1,81,333	Nil.
1930-31	1,93,574	17,000
1931-32	2,25,588	1,45,901
1932-33	2,05,363	50,196
1933-34	2,30,477	70,863
1934-35	2,43,850	82,485
1935-36	2,71,325	10,45,438
1936-37	2,98,007	15,79,564
1937-38	3,26,739	6,39,641
1938-39	3,62,882	1,22,259
1938-39	(a) 1,50,000	1,64,016
Total	26,89,138	39,17,363

(a) Provisional allotment for the first six months.

Production and Distribution.

129. Besides the above a grant of Rs.7,65,000 has also been received from the reserve in the Central Road Fund for the completion of the following Road Improvement Programme undertaken in the province :—

Serial No.	Name of work	Amount of estimate	Expenditure during 1939-40	Total expenditure to end of 1939-40	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
	LAKHIMPUR DIVISION	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1	Rebuilding the Doom-Dooma bridge in mile 318 of the Assam Trunk Road.	60,000	9,007	37,904	In progress.
	CENTRAL ASSAM DIVISION				
2	Bridging the Borgong in the Darrang district and construction of the consequent 10¾ mile road diversion.	2,79,000	27,633	27,633	Ditto.
3	Bridging the Khandajan and Barnadi in Mangaldai subdivision—				
	(*a*) Khandajan bridge	46,177	32,932	34,407	Ditto.
	(*b*) Barnadi bridge	43,272	17,032	18,042	Ditto.
4	Improving the North Trunk Road (West)—Section I—From Dumnichowki to the 92nd mile post near Rangiya.	2,82,305	2,776	2,776	Ditto.
	WESTERN ASSAM DIVISION				
5	Improving the North Trunk Road (West)—Section IIA—92nd mile post near Rangiya to Nalbari 104th mile including cost of replacing bamboo bridges up to Burama 112th mile, and that of bridging the Buradia, Tihu, Kaldia and Dhumarkar.	4,93,990	1,769	1,769	Ditto.
6	Improving the Garubhasa-Phutkibari-Bilashipara-Gauripur Road—				
	Section A—Garubhasa to Phutkibari	1,96,738	3,578	3,578	Ditto.
	Section B—Phutkibari to Bilashipara	37,254	14,606	14,606	Ditto.
	LOWER ASSAM DIVISION				
7	Improving the Hojai-Doboka Road ...	1,86,706	600	902	Ditto.
8	Replacing timber bridges on the Nowgong-Kampur Road in the Nowgong subdivision.	63,360	35,999	36,994	Ditto.
9	Replacing timber bridges on the Assam Trunk Road (West) of Gauhati.	2,18,350	2,001	2,001	Ditto.
	SYLHET DIVISION				
10	Improving the Srimangal-Shaistaganj-Teliapara Road—Section A—Srimangal to Mirpur.	2,30,934	22,185	22,185	Ditto.
11	Improving the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road—				
	Section A—Sylhet to Gobindganj ...	1,26,064	38,808	62,196	Ditto.
	Section B—Gobindganj to Pagla ...	1,95,426	16,044	16,044	Ditto.
	Section C—Pagla to Sunamganj ...	1,72,628	12,012	12,012	Ditto.
12	Construction of a bridge over Manu river at Maulvibazar.	1,59,033	475	475	Ditto.
13	Improving the portion of Shillong-Sylhet Road within Sylhet Municipal area from the end of the Public Works Department Road up to Keane Bridge.	42,420	12,389	12,389	Ditto.
	CACHAR DIVISION				
14	Improving the Karimganj Earle Bridge approach road.	21,046	3,948	3,948	Ditto.
15	Widening the Earle Bridge at Karimganj ...	84,200	33,053	33,053	Ditto.
16	Construction of a bridge over the Dhaleswar river on the Surma Trunk Road (East).	72,910	17,558	17,558	Ditto.
	Total	30,11,813	3,04,405	3,60,472	

Production and Distribution.

Motor Taxation Fund.

130. The surplus available after meeting the obligatory charges from the proceeds under the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act (Act IX of 1936) is allocated between the local bodies and the Public Works Department in the ratio of 2 to 1 for the development and improvement of road communications.

The improvement of local board roads are also effected by the Public Works Department on a programme prepared of projects submitted by the Local Boards and selected by the Assam Communications Board. The Local Board proposals were not received during the year, hence no work could be done on that account. The total allocation of Rs.1,99,237 therefore was carried forward for expenditure in future years.

The Public Works Department share during the year amounted to Rs.36,651, out of which Rs.24,989 was spent on 11 works.

Tea Rates Fund.

131. The proceeds of the additional rate levied under section 3-A of the Assam Local Rates Regulations, 1879, as amended by Act VI of 1926, are now credited to provincial revenues with effect from the 1st April 1939 under the head "VII—Land Revenue—Rates and cesses on lands—Proceeds of the additional Tea Rates" and are available for expenditure on the construction or improvement of road communications and also for the maintenance of such roads where necessary, in any of the districts from which the additional rate is levied.

Subject to the approval of the Assam Communications Board a sub-committee make selection of schemes of roads and bridges to be financed out of this fund which are carried out by the Public Works Department after obtaining the concurrence of the Finance Department.

The Public Works Department took over the administration of the Fund with an opening balance of Rs.40,439-8-10 on the 1st April 1939 and receipts during the year amounted to Rs.1,55,464-9-3. The total amount available for expenditure thus stood at Rs.1,95,904-2-1.

The Department also took over certain works in progress estimated to cost Rs.63,544 on which a sum of Rs.35,785 was spent during the year.

The Tea Rate Sub-Committee met on the 15th September 1939 and framed a two years' programme of road improvement, consisting of 16 projects estimated to cost Rs.2,71,000. A sum of Rs.12,075 mostly representing expenditure on surveys was incurred during the year.

The roads to be improved should be to a standard of specification inferior to the normal Public Works Department standard. It was also decided that no local board road would be taken up for improvement unless the Board concerned gave a prior written undertaking to resume the road for future maintenance.

Road maintenance by mechanical methods.

132. The mechanical units under the Department continued to give excellent results in the treatment of earth and gravelled roads. No addition was made to the existing fleet during the year.

Gravelling earth roads.

133. The method of gravelling earth roads to make them fit for all-weather traffic was continued wherever funds permitted. 77 miles of earth roads were gravelled during the year raising the total gravelled mileage from 1,200 to 1,277.

Meetings and Conferences.

134. The fourth meeting of the Transport Advisory Council held in Simla in July 1939 was attended by Mr. K. E. L. Pennell, M.C., I.S.E., Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Assam as the representative of the Provincial Government.

A meeting of the Assam Communications Board was held on the 13th, 14th and 15th September 1939. The financial items of business transacted were:—

(*i*) Constitution of a Tea Rates Road Fund Sub-Committee of the Board.

(*ii*) Addition of certain projects to the Road Improvement Programme.

(*iii*) Selection of further schemes for improvement under the priority Class I of the programme.

Meetings of the Indian Roads Congress.

135. The Sixth Indian Roads Congress was held in Bombay in December 1939 and was attended by Mr. Ali Ahmed, B.A., I.S.E., Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle and Mr. D. C. Datta, B.E., A.E.S., as delegates. Mr. Datta's paper on "slips and subsidences on a Hill Road" was accepted by, and read at, the Roads Congress.

18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works

136. The total expenditure was Rs.59,455 against Rs.68,535 in the year 1938-39. Rupees 4,124 was spent on Original Works and Rs.35,900 on maintenance. A sum of Rs.6,000 was paid as Grant-in-aid. Rupees 12,612 was spent on Establishment and pensionary charges and Rs.819 on tools and plant. Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.

Railways and Tramways

137. There was no change in administration of Railways in Assam during the year under report. Railways.

No new construction was taken up. The total mileage during the year remained unchanged, *i.e.*, 1,301·9 miles as before comprised of:—

	Miles
(1) Assam-Bengal Railway	864·28
(2) Eastern Bengal Railway	236·50
(3) Dibru-Sadiya Railway	144·78
(4) Tezpur-Balipara Railway	22·52
(5) Jorhat Railway	33·82

The Tangla-Belsiri-Rangapara extension of the Eastern Bengal Railway is guaranteed by the Government of Assam to the extent of Rs.1,75,000 per annum and during the year, a sum of Rs.1,45,734 was paid on this account leaving a balance of Rs.12,266 to be paid next year.

The Singri-Panchnoi River Tramway in the district of Darrang which is managed by the Steamer Companies is the only Tramway (minor Railway) in the province. Tramways.

Railway Advisory Committees

138. During the year the Local Advisory Committees of the Assam-Bengal, Dibru-Sadiya and Tezpur-Balipara Railways held two meetings each and the Eastern Bengal Railway 11 meetings. Advisory Committee.

Posts and Telegraphs

139. A debit of Rs.3,655 was raised by the Telegraph Department against this Government during the year 1939-40 on account of loss in working certain Telegraph Offices and lines in non-excluded areas, which were guaranteed from provincial revenues. Twelve extra departmental branch post offices—Baghasura, Chatulbazar, Deopara, Jawerbazar, Phool-Tullah, Rarisal and Richi (Sylhet Head Office), Dudnai (Dhubri Head Office), Jaiaw (Shillong Head Office), Kokila, Makalmawa, Maniari-Tanali (Gauhati Head Office) were opened. The status of the Darrang-Panbari Sub-office was raised to that of Combined Sub-office and the status of the Vernerpur Combined Sub-office was reduced to that of Extra Departmental Combined Sub-office during the year under report. Post and Telegraphs.

140. Nine hundred and five new licenses and eight hundred and one renewed licenses (1,706 in all) for wireless receiving sets were issued by post offices in Assam and twenty-eight commercial broadcast receiver licenses were issued by the Circle Office to persons in Assam for commercial purposes during the year 1939-40. No license for wireless fixed stations in Assam was issued during the year. Wireless Licenses.

141. The Trunk lines between Gauhati and Mariani were erected during 1939-40 but it could not be linked with the General Trunk system for want of a Repeater at Mariani. Telephones.

Tolls on Bridges and Roads

Tolls continued to be collected at the following places:— Tolls.

Sylhet

(1) At Keane Bridge over the Surma river at Sylhet.

Khasi and Jaintia Hills

(2) At Umtyngar and Dawki on the Shillong-Sylhet Road } For vehicular traffic only.

(3) At Burnihat on the Gauhati-Shillong Road ... }

Kamrup

(4) At Chalkhowa bridge at Barpeta.

Nowgong

(5) At Dharamtul bridge over the Kopili river in the 49th mile of the Assam Trunk Road (East).

Sibsagar

(6) At Dhansiri bridge at Numaligarh on the 156th mile of the Assam Trunk Road (East).

(7) At Dikhu bridge at Amgurighat on the 222nd mile of the Assam Trunk Road (East).

Lakhimpur

(8) At Dehing bridge at Khowanghat on the 257th mile of the Assam Trunk Road (East).

(9) At Ranganadi bridge (Pahumara) on the 4th mile west of North Lakhimpur on the North Trunk Road.

(10) At Desang bridge at Desang Barbaruaghat on the 229th mile of the Assam Trunk Road (East).

FLOODS

Kamrup and Goalpara Districts

142. There were extraordinary high flood during the year in these districts and considerable damage was done to bridges and roads in Goalpara and Barpeta Subdivisions.

Darrang District

143. I nTezpur Subdivision the Tezpur-Coldersghat-Jamaguri road was overtopped by flood causing damage to the road and bridges. This necessitated the temporary closure of traffic between Gabru and Orang. In Mangaldai Subdivision vehicular traffic was suspended over all ferries. There was a serious breach of about 280' in the 73rd mile of the North Trunk Road (west). In North Lakhimpur Subdivision the North Trunk Road on both sides of the Boginadi covering almost one mile was breached in several places and foot traffic was maintained by dugout boats and temporary foot bridges. The river bed of the Dikrang was changed by the forming of a *chur* in the middle which necessitated mails and bus passengers being crossed by single boat with transhipment across the *chur*. The temporary bridge over Bar-Balijan in mile 22nd of North Trunk Road from North Lakhimpur towards Chaldhowa was washed away. This portion of the road was closed to motor traffic till the rains were over. Both the sides of bridge No.73/1 of the North Trunk Road (East) were washed away and two additional spans of 40′ each had to be erected.

Sibsagar District

144. Certain miles of the Assam Trunk Road and the Jagannath Barua Road in the Jorhat Subdivision were overtopped by flood water. In the Golaghat Subdivision a sudden flood was caused by heavy rains in the hills which damaged certain bridges in the Assam Trunk Road.

Sylhet District

145. The road surface of the Shillong-Sylhet Road was overtopped by flood-water by $2\frac{1}{2}'$ in miles 62nd to 64th where badly scouring the metal surface and washing away metal collected on the road side berms.

Balipara Frontier Tract

146. There were heavy floods on the Mansiri, the Jorasor and Banispr rivers and a great deal of damage was done to roads and bridges.

Naga Hills District

147. The suspension bridge over the Dikhu river was damaged by flood during the year.

Garo Hills District

148. Dispensary buildings and Sub-Assistant Surgeon's quarters at Dainadubi were damaged by a rise in the Dudnai river.

Storms

149. A severe storm during September caused damage to the Civil Subdivisional Officer's residence at Goalpara.

A violent storm passed over Gauhati in May causing extensive damage to some Government buildings.

There was a severe hail storm in May which caused considerable damage to mohorer and cooly sheds at Dhansiri.

A severe storm in May damaged some buildings in Manipur.

A storm passed over Tura in June blowing away a portion of the roof of the Deputy Commissioner's Court building there.

Land Slips

150. There were land slips on the Shillong-Sylhet road but traffic was obstructed on three occasions in mile 24th only.

Due to a heavy flood during the rainy season breaches occurred on the Dimapur-Manipur Road dislocating through traffic, *viz.*, in the 34th mile through traffic was closed from July to October. In the 42nd mile from June to August and in the 65th mile from July to August during the year.

Earthquakes

151. There was a severe earthquake shock in Manipur in May and some of the Government buildings were badly damaged. Slight shocks were experienced on several occasions in the districts of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Kamrup, Dhubri and Garo Hills.

Fire and Lightning

152. The Serai house at Dhupdhara (Goalpara), cold weather bridge No.26/1 on the Rangiya-Darranga Road, cook-shed and clerks' quarters attached to the Sub-Deputy Collector's at Sonari (Sibsagar), two temporary thatched buildings of the Karimganj Government High School and the servants' shed attached to the Dak Bungalow at Badarpur were burnt down by fire during the year.

Section 13.—Industries

[*See* Report of the Department of Industries, Assam, for the year ending the 31st March 1940.]

153. The Department of Industries in Assam is not in touch with the large scale industries of the province and therefore its activities were, as in previous years mainly confined to the encouragement of handloom weaving and sericulture and to the spread of technical and industrial education through the three technical

schools and the only Weaving Institute in the province, and by award of stipends tenable both in and outside the province. The Peripatetic Weaving Domonstration parties continued to introduce improved and up-to-date appliances, etc., by actual demonstration and propaganda in the villages. The Dyeing Supervisor and the Calico Printing Instructor besides giving necessary assistance to the interested parties rendered a great deal of help for the development of the weaving industry. Jute spinning and weaving were also successfully introduced in selected localities where jute is grown extensively. To introduee hosiery industry in the province the necessary staff was entertained during the year under review.

154. The work of the sericultural branch of the Department was, as in the previous year, confined mainly to the production of disease-free seeds in the Sericultural Stations at Titabar and Shillong and propaganda and demonstration by the regular staff under the Department.

The Peripatetic Weaving parties visited 1,082 villages and rendered help to 130 Co-operative Societies, 54 Schools, 34 Factories and successfully introduced 505 new sleys and looms, 18 warping drums, 30 hand creels, 1 Jacquard, 1 Dobby, 8 *Eri* spinning and 19 cotton spinning *charkhas* besides a large number of healds, reeds and shuttles, etc. They participated in 14 Exhibitions and delivered lantern lectures as usual. They also attended 2 weaving competitions held in the province during the year.

During the year under report the Government of India sanctioned a grant of a further sum of Rs.25,255 for the working of all the four schemes in operation for the last few years for the development of handloom weaving industry in the province and it has been of substantial help to the public in general.

The two Sericultural Stations at Titabar and Shillong concentrated their attention to the production of disease-free (Cellular) seeds for supply to the rearers through the demonstration staff as well as to the interested parties both in and outside the province.

During the year under review the Government Emporium and Central Stores received another contribution of Rs.1,000 out of the Government of India grant. The Emporium continued to supply partial requirements of fabrics of some of the Government Departments as far as its funds could permit. It also executed a few orders for supply of looms and accessories for rural uplift work under the Department of Agriculture, Assam. The total sales of the Emporium including that of its branch located at Karimganj amounted to Rs.30,345-3-1 as against Rs.26,165-12-3 of the previous year.

155. Industrial loans to the extent of Rs.600 only were issued during the year. A sum of Rs.5,000 was also given as an advance free of interest—to an individual industrialist for supply of 125 " Sudarshan " Charkhas to the Department. Twenty-one institutions imparting vocational training to the youths of the province were given small non-recurring contributions amounting to Rs.1,950 out of the provincial budget. Small contributions amounting to Rs.150 were also given to some of the exhibitions held during the year throughout the province. Thirty-three private institutions imparting vocational training were also assisted with small non-recurring contributions amounting to Rs.2,750 out of the Assam Williamson Education Endowment Fund.

156. There were 23, 86 and 76 students respectively on the rolls of the Kohima, Sylhet and Jorhat Technical Schools on the 31st March 1940. The Government Weaving Institute at Gauhati had 54 students including 10 girls on its roll at the beginning of the year, but 10 left the institute before completion of their courses.

Including some of the students under practical training in a few workshops in and outside the province there were 19 students receiving training on industrial subjects with stipends from both the provincial revenues and the Assam Williamson Education Endowment Fund.

Section 14.—Tea Industry

[*See* Report on Tea Culture in Assam for the year ending the 31st December 1939.]

Tea

157. The number of gardens was 1,126 against 1,120 of the previous year. The total area of land comprised within the tea estates was 1,679,932 acres against 1,688,733 acres in the preceding year. The area under actual cultivation decreased from 439,134 acres (revised) to 438,251 acres and the area plucked decreased from 402,819 to 402,379 acres. The total outturn of tea in the province during the

Production and Distribution.

year was 252,347,358 pounds of black and 572,175 lbs. of green tea against 260,248,898 lbs. and 808,493 lbs. respectively in the previous year or a decrease of 8,137,858 lbs.in all.

Labour force.

158. The daily average number of labourers employed in the gardens during the year was 538,294 against 520,932 in the previous year, the permanent garden labour being 467,783, permanent outside labour 39,087 and temporary outside labour 31,424 against 457,703, 31,722 and 31,507 persons respectively in the previous year.

Weather.

159. Rainfall was not evenly distributed in some districts. The weather condition during the year under report was generally dry in the beginning and end of the season. These caused some damage to certain gardens.

Prices.

160. The prices obtained were not quite up to expectation due to the outbreak of War in the middle of the season which interfered with the export of tea to foreign countries. Assam Valley tea fetched 1 shilling 6·96 *d.* and Surma Valley 1 shilling 0·01 *d.* in London sales, 9 annas 10 pies and 6 annas 10 pies in Calcutta sales, as compared with 1 shilling 2·52 *d.*, 11·76 *d.*, 8 annas 4 pies and 6 annas 2 pies for the year 1938 respectively.

Condition of tea industry.

161. Owing to the restriction scheme the general condition of the industry improved.

Revenue and Finance.

CHAPTER V

SECTION 1.—Revenue and Finance

162. The land revenue demand excluding the temporary reduction but including the arrears was Rs.1,27,09,221 against Rs.1,33,81,247 in the previous year, of this Rs.1,00,19,919 was collected, *i.e.*, a percentage of 78·8 compared with the percentage of 68·9 in the previous year. Rupees 1,05,378 was remitted and Rs.25,86,621 was outstanding at the close of the year.

SECTION 2.—Public Revenue and Finance

163. The following statement shows the actual provincial receipts of 1939-40 as compared with the figures for 1938-39 :—

Heads of Revenue	Actuals, 1938-39	Actuals, 1939-40	Increase	Decrease
1	2	3	4	5
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
I.—Customs	11,69	13,39	1,70	...
IV.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.	3,00	6,41	3,41	...
V.—Salt	2	...	...	2
VII.—Land Revenue	1,12,64	1,36,90	24,26	...
VIII.—Provincial Excise	35,33	33,96	...	1,37
IX.—Stamps	18,12	17,63	...	49
X.—Forests	16,69	17,45	76	...
XI.—Registration	1,77	2,01	24	...
XII.—Receipts under Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	3,71	4,09	38	...
XIII.—Other taxes and duties ...	6	2,37	2,31	...
XVIII.—Navigation, etc. ...	...	1	1	...
XX.—Interest	12	26	14	...
XXI.—Administration of Justice ...	1,62	1,83	21	...
XXII.—Jails and Convict Settlements	38	47	9	...
XXIII.—Police	24	38	14	...
XXIV.—Ports and Pilotage	...	5	5	...
XXVI.—Education	3,88	3,93	5	...
XXVII.—Medical	1,99	1,96	...	3
XXVIII.—Public Health	2,54	2,40	...	14
XXIX.—Agriculture	1,10	98	...	12
XXX.—Veterinary	41	36	...	5
XXXI.—Co-operation	29	11	...	18
XXXII.—Industries	44	42	...	2
XXXVI.—Miscellaneous Departments...	46	48	2	...
XXXIX.—Civil Works	10,33	10,91	58	...
XLIV.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	24	22	...	2
XLV.—Stationery and Printing ...	49	47	...	2
XLVI.—Miscellaneous	89	384	295	...
XLIX.—Grants-in-aid from Central Government.	30,00	30,00	...	...
L.—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments.	3	4	1	...
N.—Public Debt incurred ...	1,13,00	1,92,00	79,00	...
O.—Unfunded Debt	15,44	16,64	1,20	...
Deposits and Advances	2,56,09	1,85,47	...	70,62
Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government.	3,39	3,19	...	20
Remittances within India ...	1,65,62	1,72,22	6,60	...
Total	8,12,03	8,62,85	1,24,10	73,28
Opening balance	30,98	27,24	...	...
Grand total	8,43,01	8,90,08	...	...

Revenue and Finance.

164. The main reasons for the principal increases and decreases are as follows :—

I. Customs(+ *Trs. 1,70*).—Owing to increase in this Government's share of the export duty on jute.

IV.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (+ *Trs. 3,41*).—Due partly to an increase in the Provincial share of the net proceeds of Income-tax and partly to receipts from the Assam Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1939.

VII.—Land Revenue (+ *Trs.24,26*).—The increase is partly due to earlier collections of land revenue under " Temporary-settled Estates " owing to the rise in prices and partly to the fact that the proceeds of additional tea rates and the local rates realised under section 3 of the Assam Local Rates Regulation, 1879, previously credited to local bodies were credited under this head with effect from the year 1939-40.

VIII.—Provincial Excise (—*Trs. 1,37*).—Due to a decrease under "Opium" as a result of a policy adopted by Government which aims at the gradual extermination of the opium habit, partly counterbalanced by increased receipts from the sale of country spirit.

IX.—Stamps (—*Trs. 49*).—Decrease due to establishment of Debt Conciliation Boards in different places.

X.—Forests (+ *Trs. 76*).—Owing to increased demand for timber and rise in prices.

XI.—Registration (+ *Trs. 24*).—Increase due to the opening of new registration offices and the improvement in the economic condition of the people in general.

XII.—Receipts under Motor Vehicles Taxation Act (+ *Trs. 38*).—The increase is due partly to the increase of the tax on private motor vehicles under the Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1939 and partly to an increase in the number of taxable vehicles.

XIII.—Other Taxes and Duties (+ *Trs. 2,31*).—Due to receipts accruing from the taxes imposed on motor spirits and amusements, etc., with effect from 1939-40.

XXXIX.—Civil Works (+ *Trs. 58*).—Owing to increases under different heads.

XLVI.—Miscellaneous (+ *Trs. 2,95*).—Owing to credit of receipts previously realised by local bodies and other funds in respect of schools, hospitals, steamer and other transport services, bazar, bridges, buildings, etc., to this head instead of direct to those bodies to conform to the Government of India Act.

Capital and Debt heads (+ *Trs. 15,97*).—Receipts and expenditure under these heads are of a fluctuating nature and accurate estimates are not possible.

165. The statement below shows the actual provincial expenditure of 1939-40 as compared with the figures of 1938-39 :—

Heads of expenditure 1	Actuals, 1938-39 2	Actuals, 1939-40 3	Increase 4	Decrease 5
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
4.—Taxes on Income other than corporation tax.	...	9	9	...
7.—Land Revenue	16,44	28,65	12,21	...
8.—Provincial Excise	4,32	4,16	...	16
9.—Stamps	39	43	4	...
10.—Forests	11,61	11,61	...	...
11.—Registration	1,43	1,52	9	...
12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.	1,73	2,10	37	...
13.—Other Taxes and Duties ...	...	2	2	...
18.—Other Revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue.	69	59	...	10
22.—Interest on debt and other obligations.	3,25	4,12	87	...

Revenue and Finance.

Heads of expenditure 1	Actuals, 1938-39 2	Actuals, 1939-40 3	Increase 4	Decrease 5
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
23.—Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt.	30,65	...	...	30,65
25.—General Administration	34,38	33,89	...	49
27.—Administration of Justice ...	10,14	10,59	45	...
28.—Jails and Convict Settlements ...	4,47	4,70	23	...
29.—Police	30,78	32,86	2,08	...
30.—Ports and Pilotage	9	7	...	2
36.—Scientific Departments	4	5	1	...
37.—Education (European)— Ditto (Other than European) }	36,05	38,67	2,62	...
38.—Medical	14,54	14,40	...	14
39.—Public Health	8,86	8,21	...	65
40.—Agriculture	5,78	6,30	52	...
41.—Veterinary	1,58	1,63	5	...
42.—Co-operation	96	92	...	4
43.—Industries	2,73	2,78	5	...
47.—Miscellaneous Departments ...	87	90	3	...
50.—Civil Works	43,83	47,84	4,01	...
54A.—Famine Relief...	3,02	75	...	2,27
55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	22,00	22,59	59	...
56.—Stationery and Printing	3,34	3,12	...	22
57.—Miscellaneous	5,52	8,77	3,25	...
83.—Payment of commuted value of pensions.	1,92	1,59	...	33
85.—Payments to Retrenched Personnel	—8	—2	6	...
Public Debt	1,03,65	1,82,00	78,35	...
Unfunded Debt	10,16	12,25	2,09	...
Deposits and Advances	2,30,70	1,84,94	...	45,76
Suspense	...	...	...	...
Loans and Advances by the Provincial Government.	6,07	4,82	...	1,25
Remittances within India	1,63,84	1,65,78	1,94	...
Total	8,15,77	8,43,69	1,10,01	82,09
Closing balance	27,24	46,39	...	...
Grand total	8,43,01	8,90,08	...	...

Revenue and Finance.

166. The main reasons for the principal increases and decreases are given below:—

7. *Land Revenue* (+*Trs. 12,21*).—Due mainly to payment of contributions to local bodies in lieu of local rates previously realised by them which are now credited to provincial revenues.

12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act (+*Trs.* 37)—Owing mainly to expenditure on roads financed from the surplus proceeds of the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act.

22.—Interest on Debt and other obligations(+*Trs.87*).—Due to longer payment of interest on Treasury Bills and short-term advances.

23.—Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of Debt (—*Trs. 30,65*).—The actuals during 1938-39 show the repayment of the advances taken from the provincial loans fund in the year 1936-37 to meet the deficit in that year. No loan was taken in subsequent years and hence no repayment was necessary.

25.—General Administration (—*Trs. 49*).—Owing mainly to the abolition of the office of the Commissioner, Surma Valley and Hill Division, with effect from 1st April 1939.

27.—Administration of Justice (+*Trs. 45*).—Due to payment of a larger contribution demanded by Bengal for the share cost of the Calcutta High Court.

29.—Police (+*Trs. 2,08*).—Partly due to charges for deferred pay to constables of the police force, to increase in the strength of the Department and also to increased charges under ' Miscellaneous ' owing to payment of contributions paid to local bodies in lieu of receipts accruing from the Cattle Trespass Act now being credited to Government under an audit ruling.

37.—Education (+*Trs. 2,62*).—Due to increase in expenditure under "Government Arts Colleges ", " Secondary " and " Primary Education ", owing to increments, increase in staff to meet the demand as a result of increased enrolment, new grants to non-Government secondary schools and to local bodies for primary education.

39.—Public Health. (—*Trs. 65*).—Owing to lesser expenditure under ' Epidemic Diseases '.

40.—Agriculture (+*Trs.52*).—Mainly due to new expenditure on improvement of cattle in Assam (Cattle Nutrition Scheme), Agricultural Survey, extension of Dong system cultivation, and on village reconstruction and uplift by the opening of model villages.

50.—Civil Works (+*Trs.4,01*).—Due to increased expenditure for maintenance of roads and bridges including new ones, flood damage repairs and an increased grant from the petrol tax fund.

54A.—Famine Relief (—*Trs.2,27*).—Due to absence of flood relief operations during the year.

55.—Superannuation allowances and pensions (+*Trs.59*).—Due to an increase in the number of pensioners.

57.—Miscellaneous (+*Trs. 3,25*).—Due to payment of contributions to local bodies in lieu of receipts previously realised by local bodies and other funds in respect of schools, hospitals, steamers, etc., now being credited to this head.

83.—Payment of commuted value of pensions (—*Trs. 33*).—Owing to decrease in the demand for commutation of pensions.

Capital and Debt heads (+*Trs. 35,31*).—As explained under Revenue, expenditure under these heads is of a fluctuating nature.

Stamps.

167. The Provincial Revenue derived in Assam under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts was Rs.17,44,654 against Rs.17,87,288 in the preceding year. The number of licensed vendors of stamps employed during the year was 353 against 376 in the preceding year. The discount allowed to the vendors on the sale of stamps decreased from Rs. 23,904 to Rs. 23,762. The Courts and Revenue Officers dealt with 1,233 cases of insufficiently stamped or unstamped instruments and realised duty and penalty amounting to Rs. 6,003. There was no case of prosecution during the year under report.

SECTION 3.—Excise

[*See* the report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Assam for the year 1939-40].

Excise receipts and expenditure.

168. The total receipts for the year were Rs.34,45,607 against Rs.35,77,092 in 1938-39. Receipts from liquors, hemp drugs and other miscellaneous sources increased by Rs.3,55,879 while receipts from opium decreased by Rs.4,87,364

resulting in a net decrease of Rs.1,31,485 or 3·6 per cent. over the revenue of the previous year. The net expenditure, excluding the cost of opium, rose from Rs.3,21,927 to Rs.3,59,762. The increase was chiefly due to extra expenditure incurred in connection with the prohibition of opium.

Country spirit.

169. The consumption of country spirit rose from 276,832·7 L.P. gallons to 312,796·0 L.P. gallons. The check put on illicit distillation, excessive brewing of *pachwai* and the fraud practised on the consumers by the vendors and opening of lessee-manager shops in the localities where illicit distillation was suspected, where the chief causes for the increase in consumption of country spirit.

The ' shop bottling ' system continued in seven country spirit shops in Sylhet, Goalpara, Kamrup, Lakhimpur and Nowgong. Though this system is said to have been inefficient the working of the same is being reviewed.

The central bottling system continued to be most efficient and popular.

The number of ware-houses remained the same, *viz.*, 10 as in 1938-39.

Ganja.

170. The consumption of *ganja* amounted to 306 maunds 14 seers against 303 maunds 10 seers with a revenue of Rs.5,66,932 as against Rs.5,29,278 in the previous year. The increase represents the replacement of illicit by licit *ganja*. The smuggling of hill *ganja* is going on in an extensive scale which it is difficult to control unless it is checked in the source of origin. The habit of using wild *bhang* which grows profusely all over the Assam Valley has very much affected the consumption of excise *ganja* and the campaign for the destruction of this plant was carried on as usual during the year under report.

Opium.

171. The consumption of opium during the year fell from 183 maunds 6 seers to 94 maunds 4 seers with a corresponding fall in revenue from Rs. 10,07,076 to Rs.5,19,712. The decrease was due to decrease in consumption caused by the total prohibition of opium introduced in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh subdivisions south of the Brahmaputra river and enforcement of quarterly accelerated reduction of opium rations during the year by which rations of all passes were reduced at the rate of 1/8th of a tola in the other included and partially excluded areas of the province. The quarterly cut in the latter area has however been stopped pending a final decision on the Government opium policy in these areas with effect from the period from which the 5th cut was to be introduced. There were 30,366 registered consumers at the beginning of the year and 16,882 at the close of the year of whom 16,617 held permanent and 265 temporary passes with a total monthly rations of 5 maunds 16 seers 3 chattacks. It has also been decided that all opium shops in the included areas of the province will be closed from 1st March 1941. In future opium passes would be issued in very special and exceptional cases strictly on medical grounds.

The settlement instructions regarding the elimination of lessees of 3 years' standing holding charge of any particular kind of shop was abolished and settlement was directed to be made with due regard to the communal representation preference being given to unemployed youths. The reduction policy of Government and other restrictions have no doubt arrested the spread of opium habit but the smuggling of opium has shown no signs of abatement. 4 maunds 18 seers 22 tolas of contraband opium were seized during the year as against 3 maunds 15 seers 7¼ tolas in the previous year. The number of retail licenses fell from 282 to 217. The treasury and retail prices of opium remained unchanged.

General.

172. Local bodies were consulted as usual in the matter of general and local importance in connection with the excise administration and in regard to sites of all old and new excise and opium shops. Where there were real grounds for objection and concrete and practical suggestions were made the wishes of the Boards were considered and respected.

The number of persons arrested for offences against excise and opium laws was 2,033 as against 1,702 in the previous year. Excise Officers obtained convictions in 80·0 per cent. of their cases. The introduction of prohibition of opium and accelerated reduction of opium rations resulted in a large increase of illicit traffic in opium, and this accounts for the heavy increase in the number of opium cases detected. Ingenious methods of transport and sale are being constantly devised and adopted by the illicit traffickers to avoid detection.

SECTION 4.—Local Funds

[For the year ending 31st March 1940]

173. The following statements show the receipts and charges of Local Funds during the year :—

STATEMENT A SHOWING THE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BALANCES OF LOCAL BOARDS IN ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1939-40—(PROVINCIAL).

Serial No.	Name of Local Boards	Opening balance	Receipts	Total	Payments	Closing balance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Silchar ..	9,268 7 8	2,03,725 7 0	212,993 14 8	1,91,083 1 6	21,910 13 2
2	Hailakandi ..	18,577 7 0	74,373 11 11	92,951 2 11	91,733 6 3	1,217 12 8
3	Tezpur ..	53,706 15 0	2,31,189 10 9	2,84,896 9 9	2,24,539 1 6	60,357 8 3
4	Mangaldai ..	16,539 7 3	1,52,350 0 0	1,68,899 7 3	1,44,160 12 6	24,728 10 9
5	Dhubri ..	27,037 10 6	3,37,765 5 6	3,64,803 0 0	3,34,398 4 0	30,404 12 0
6	Goalpara ..	20,735 14 11	1,35,919 14 3	1,56,655 13 2	1,42,939 8 0	13,716 5 2
7	Gauhati ..	55,781 12 4	3,31,976 9 6	3,87,758 5 10	3,38,680 8 6	49,077 13 4
8	Barpeta ..	10,013 14 2	1,59,074 7 9	1,69,088 5 11	1,55,728 13 0	13,359 8 11
9	Dibrugarh ..	63,320 9 8	3,29,022 0 9	3,92,342 11 5	3,24,119 11 6	68,222 15 11
10	North Lakhimpur	13,882 5 3	1,27,057 9 7	1,40,939 14 10	1,19,912 11 0	21,027 3 10
11	Nowgong ..	29,574 13 4	2,70,006 13 6	2,99,581 10 10	2,75,312 9 0	24,269 1 10
12	Jorhat ..	7,212 9 10	1,82,100 15 9	1,89,313 9 7	1,81,889 4 0	7,424 5 7
13	Sibsagar ..	23,333 6 2	1,78,138 5 0	2,01,471 11 2	1,84,835 15 3	16,635 11 11
14	Golaghat ..	20,265 2 2	1,18,817 6 9	1,39,082 8 11	1,24,637 5 3	14,445 3 8
15	North Sylhet ..	14,861 3 8	2,19,912 14 4	2,34,774 2 0	2,24,884 10 10	9,889 7 2
16	Karimganj ..	9,346 0 10	1,98,639 5 7	2,07,985 6 5	1,99,094 1 0	8,891 5 5
17	Habiganj ..	4,984 1 2	2,28,825 13 9	2,33,809 14 11	2,25,840 3 11	7,969 11 0
18	Sunamganj ..	4,372 6 0	1,88,524 8 9	1,92,896 14 9	1,80,790 15 8	12,105 15 1
19	South Sylhet ..	37,556 14 1	1,98,300 11 10	2,35,857 9 11	1,99,124 15 10	36,732 10 1
	Total ..	4,40,371 1 0	38,65,721 13 3	43,06,092 14 3	38,63,705 14 6	4,42,386 15 9

STATEMENT B SHOWING THE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BALANCES OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS, TOWN COMMITTEES AND DISTRICT FUNDS IN ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1939-40—(PROVINCIAL)

Serial No.	Names of Municipal Boards and Town Committees	Opening balance	Receipts	Total	Payments	Closing balance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Silchar Municipality ..	25,133 1 7	1,04,624 4 3	1,29,757 5 10	1,08,794 13 9	20,862 8 1
2	Hailakandi Town Committee ..	3,632 12 4	16,600 7 0	20,233 3 4	17,397 14 9	2,835 4 7
3	Tezpur Municipality ..	26,475 1 10	81,811 5 3	1,08,286 7 1	92,223 7 3	16,062 15 10
4	Mangaldai Town Committee ..	8,032 3 8	11,376 6 3	19,408 9 11	11,199 10 6	8,208 15 5
5	Dhubri Municipality ..	3,904 0 1	65,761 11 3	69,665 11 4	63,329 7 5	6,236 3 11
6	Goalpara Municipality ..	5,092 13 0	27,157 9 6	32,250 6 6	24,995 5 6	7,255 1 0
7	Gauripur Town Committee ..	2,574 2 4	10,867 11 3	13,441 13 7	11,500 13 3	1,941 0 4
8	Barpeta Town Committee ..	5,406 4 11	32,412 15 0	37,819 3 11	33,374 13 6	4,444 6 5
9	Gauhati Municipality ..	17,614 0 6	1,43,460 9 9	1,61,074 10 3	1,45,173 5 3	15,901 5 0
10	Nalbari Town Committee ..	1,417 2 0	2,342 5 6	3,759 7 6	1,517 0 9	2,242 6 9
11	Palashbari Town Committee ..	..	6,265 2 2	6,265 2 2	2,336 3 6	3,928 14 8
12	North Lakhimpur Town Committee	3,699 1 2	13,520 2 0	17,219 3 2	13,052 3 0	4,167 0 2
13	Tinsukia Town Committee ..	4,005 15 7	3,578 9 6	7,584 9 1	1,408 2 6	6,176 6 7
14	Nowgong Municipality ..	4,742 0 2	44,204 11 9	48,946 11 11	43,710 11 3	5,236 0 8
15	Jorhat Municipality ..	11,308 7 9	79,044 4 2	90,352 11 11	78,473 11 9	11,879 0 2
16	Sibsagar Municipality ..	2,416 12 0	30,717 5 0	33,134 1 0	31,886 13 9	1,247 3 3
17	Golaghat Municipality ..	3,484 9 8	27,240 5 6	30,724 15 2	27,170 6 1	3,554 9 1
18	North Sylhet Municipality ..	8,210 5 9	1,53,453 1 8	1,61,663 7 5	1,35,271 6 6	26,392 0 11
19	Karimganj Municipality ..	1,883 13 11	33,900 1 0	35,783 14 11	34,202 12 9	1,581 2 2
20	Habiganj Municipality ..	1,732 0 4	37,114 8 6	38,846 8 10	35,110 7 0	3,736 1 10
21	Sunamganj Municipality ..	1,455 1 6	17,808 9 0	19,263 10 6	17,163 12 3	2,099 14 3
22	Maulvibazar Municipality ..	1,212 14 6	21,132 12 9	22,345 11 3	21,471 1 8	874 9 7
23	Srimangal Town Committee ..	1,471 0 0	6,967 10 6	8,438 10 6	6,066 8 0	2,372 2 6
	Total ..	1,44,903 12 7	9,71,272 8 6	11,16,176 5 1	9,56,940 15 11	1,59,235 5 2
	Garo Hills District Fund ..	44,529 8 7	73,007 13 6	1,17,537 6 1	89,885 12 3	27,651 9 10

Revenue and Finance.

STATEMENT C SHOWING THE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BALANCES OF THE TOWN AND BAZAR FUNDS IN ASSAM FOR THE YEAR 1939-40.

Serial No.	Name of the Fund	Opening balance	Receipts	Total	Payments	Closing balance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		(PROVINCIAL)				
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Haflong Bazar Fund ..	3,071 1 1	21,481 1 9	24,552 2 10	18,347 2 3	6,205 0 7
2	Tura Fund ..	7,462 11 6	20,340 15 6	27,803 11 0	21,945 12 0	5,857 15 0
3	Sadiya Local Fund	16,701 1 8	25,509 10 3	42,210 11 11	23,629 3 6	18,581 8 5
	Total ..	27,234 14 3	67,331 11 6	94,566 9 9	63,922 1 9	30,644 8 0
		TOWN AND BAZAR FUNDS—(CENTRAL)				
1	Imphal Town Fund	18,859 0 7	28,074 0 9	46,933 1 4	37,091 7 3	9,841 10 1
		BARPATHAR DEVELOPMENT FUND—(PROVINCIAL)				
1	Barpathar ..	5,075 7 4	16,806 0 0	21,881 7 4	13,977 1 0	7,904 6 4

STATEMENT D SHOWING THE INCOME, EXPENDITURE AND BALANCES OF THE DISTRICT CHOWKIDARI REWARD FUNDS, ASSAM WILLIAMSON EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND, ASSAM VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE B. BARUA ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE YEAR 1939-40—(PROVINCIAL).

Serial No.	Names of the fund	Opening balance	Receipts	Total	Payments	Closing balance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		DISTRICT CHOWKIDARI REWARD FUND				
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1	Cachar ..	1,061 12 9	127 6 0	1,189 2 9	300 0 0	889 2 9
2	Goalpara ..	1,475 13 7	426 12 0	1,902 9 7	211 14 0	1,690 11 7
3	Sylhet ..	3,797 6 3	2,321 15 3	6,119 5 6	1,403 0 0	4,716 5 6
	Total ..	6,335 0 7	2,876 1 3	9,211 1 10	1,914 14 0	7,296 3 10
		ASSAM WILLIAMSON EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND				
	Provincial ..	8,731 6 2	6,152 2 5	14,883 8 7	5,885 11 0	8,997 13 7
		ASSAM VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT FUND				
	Provincial ..	5,580 0 0	....	5,580 0 0	....	5,580 0 0
		B. BARUA ENDOWMENT FUND				
	Sibsagar ..	1,878 1 0	6,025 12 0	7,903 13 0	6,818 3 6	1,085 9 6

SECTION 5.—Local Rates

[*See* Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1940.]

174. The demand including arrears was Rs.17,26,992 against Rs.16,75,905 in the preceding year. Collection amounted to Rs. 14,57,474 and Rs.10,665 were remitted.

Additional local rates derived from land under tea cultivation amounted to Rs.1,38,165 during the year against Rs.1,41,234 during the previous year. Of this sum Rs.92,970 came from the Assam Valley and Rs.45,195 from the Surma Valley.

Vital Statistics.

CHAPTER VI

SECTION 1.—Vital Statistics

[*See* Annual Public Health Report of Assam for 1939.]

General.

175. This year, the provincial vital statistics are based on an estimated population of 8,523,816 in the plains districts whereas the previous statistics were all based on the Census population of 792,953 of 1931. The birth rate per mille for 1939 was 28·44 against 27·89 in the previous year, and a quinquennial average of 28·40. The death rate was 19·25 as against 20·90 in 1938 and a quinquennial average of 19·63. The birth and death rates of Assam were lower than those of any other Province except Sind and the North-West Frontier Province. But it should be noted that the compilation of vital statistics in Assam is not satisfactory because the reporting agencies are inefficient. Improvement in this matter has been hampered by lack of money.

176. Births and deaths registered in certain Hill district areas are compared below with those of the previous year :—

Districts	Estimated population under registration	1939		1938	
		Birth-rate	Death-rate	Birth-rate	Death-rate
1	2	3	4	5	6
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	69,235	23·48	16·97	25·07	16·95
Naga Hills	4,274	69·01	53·34	67·90	52·71
Lushai Hills	142,479	39·65	21·38	40·95	22·13
Garo Hills	204,506	26·05	18·81	27·37	20·08
Sadiya Frontier Tract ...	22,426	28·14	26·58	28·93	22·27

SECTION 2.—Charitable Dispensaries

[*See* the Annual Report on the working of the Civil Hospitals and Dispensaries in Assam for 1939.]

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

177. The number of hospitals and dispensaries increased during the year to 301, *i.e.*, an increase of fifteen on the total reported for the previous year.

The increase is due to the opening of two new Local Fund and thirteen Government subsidised dispensaries (including certain subsidised dispensaries not taken into account in the previous year). The total number of patients treated at State-Public, Local-Fund, and Private-Aided hospitals and dispensaries rose from 1,994,687 in 1938 to 2,145,093 in 1939 ; of this number 2,120,323 were out-patients. The increase in attendance is ascribed mainly to the high incidence of malaria in the districts of Goalpara, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Kamrup, Cachar and the Naga Hills.

The number of in-patients rose from 22,751 in 1938 to 24,770 in 1939. The ratio of deaths per cent. of the total treated was 5·68 against 5·90 in the preceding year.

Altogether 2,417,287 patients were treated in all classes of hospitals and dispensaries in 1939 against 2,226,654 in 1938.

The total income (including opening balances) of State-Public, Local-Fund and Private-Aided institutions was Rs.11,38,925 against Rs.10,95,586 in 1938. Of this the Government contribution amounted to Rs.4,88,487 against Rs.4,71,894 in the preceding year. The total expenditure increased from Rs.9,40,492 in 1938 to Rs.9,65,578 in 1939.

The six Leper Institutions mentioned in the previous year's report, *viz.*, at Sylhet, Gauhati, Barpeta, Kohima, Dhubri and Tura, continued to admit lepers as in-patients. In these institutions there were 240 patients remaining from the previous year, 109 were admitted, 38 were discharged "cured or relieved" 59 were

Vital Statistics.

discharged "otherwise", 23 died leaving 229 at the end of the year. While the Mission Leper Colony at Jorhat also functioned satisfactorily with 116 patients against 92 of the previous year a second such colony recently started at Santipara in the Goalpara District also treated as many as 98 patients during the year. The number of clinics under the administration of the Medical and Public Health Departments fell from 170 in 1938 to 154 in 1939 ; 61 out-door clinics remained open in dispensaries under the Public Health Department and five more clinics were opened during the year.

178. The total number of lepers treated in institutions under the Medical and Public Health Departments decreased from 4,375 in 1938 to 4,275 in 1939.

179. There were 1,749 cases of tuberculosis of the lung with 113 deaths against 1,851 cases with 114 deaths in the previous year. As in the previous year special lectures, demonstrations, and propaganda work with the aid of Magic Lanterns, were carried out by the Medical and Public Health Departments. The expenditure was met partly from the King George Thanksgiving Anti-Tuberculosis Fund (since merged into the Fund of the Tuberculosis Association of Assam) and partly from the Public Health Department budget. While the anti-tuberculosis clinic at Shillong continued to work well less progress could be made by the Nowgong clinic owing to lack of money. The construction of a modern Tuberculosis hospital and clinic at Shillong by the Tuberculosis Association of Assam with grants from Government is now being considered.

180. Altogether 827,190 cases of malaria were treated with 128 deaths against 662,694 cases with 111 deaths in the preceding year.

SECTION 3.—Mental Hospital

[*See* the Annual Report of the Mental Hospital, Tezpur, for the year 1939.]

Mental Hospital.

181. The total number of in-patients remaining in the Mental Hospital, Tezpur, at the end of the year was 682 against 689 in 1938. During the year under report 95 patients were admitted including 10 re-admissions. There were 48 discharged "cured" 14 discharged "Improved", 1 discharged "Not improved" 1 discharged "otherwise" and 38 died. The percentage of recovery calculated on the daily average strength (*viz.*, 694·92) was 6·90 against 7·70 in 1938.

The total number of admissions to the infirmaries was 467 against 365 in 1938 with a daily average sick rate of 67·13 against 61·94 in 1938.

182. The total expenditure for the upkeep of the Tezpur Mental Hospital decreased from Rs.1,28,644-14-6 in 1938 to Rs.1,25,483-7-0 in 1939. The decrease is due to less expenditure under "Establishment" and "Charges on account of works done by the Public Works Department". The average cost per head was Rs. 179-15-6 against Rs.186-1-0 in the previous year.

SECTION 4.—Sanitation

[*See* Annual Public Health Report of Assam for 1939.]

183. Deaths under all heads of disease except small-pox were less than in 1938. Deaths from small-pox rose from 1,649 in 1938 to 2,197; showing an increase of 548. The largest number of deaths was recorded in May (358) and the smallest in November (71). The death rate per mille from small-pox was 0·26 against 0·21 in 1938 and 0·11 the decennial average.

184. The amount of sickness due to Malaria was however greater. Government have tried in every way to combat this disease. The use of quinine is being extended. Operations directed against mosquito larvae are being carried out in many places under guidance of the Assam Medical Research Society. There is a need for more consumption of anti-malarial drugs and, since it would be impracticable to buy the entire quantity needed, Government are considering the cultivation of Cinchona in Assam. During the year 8,762 parcels of Quinine Reinforced Cinchona Febrifuge were sold against 7,931 last year. The Assam Medical Research Society continued to do useful research work on Malaria, and the Government grant of Rs.20,000 to the Society was continued.

185. *Kala-azar* continued to show signs of recrudescence. Survey and treatment were continued. An increase in the staff and surveys caused more cases to be detected and treated than in the previous year. Reported deaths and cases treated respectively were 1,396 and 17,756 against 1,338 and 17,268 of 1938. The number of deaths from *Kala-azar* was greater than in 1938 by 58. The method of diagnosis and treatment was the same as in previous years.

Vital Statistics.

186. The death rate per mille under the head "Fever" which included deaths from other diseases having fever as their predominant symptom was 103,892 against 105,687 in the previous year showing a decrease of 1,795. The death rate per mille was 12·19 against 13·33 in 1938 and 11·63 during the last ten years.

187. Cerebro—spinal fever was again limited to Manipur State and the Naga Hills and there were only 11 deaths during the year under report against 235 in the last year.

188. During the year a maternity and child welfare centre under the Red Cross Society was opened at Dibrugarh. A total of 36,299 infants died in 1939 giving an infant mortality rate of 149·73 against 164·67 in the previous year. The infant mortality of the Province in 1939 was however lower than that of any other year since 1929 and compares favourably with that of Orissa (197·41), Central Provinces (218·62), Madras (175·50), Punjab (167·57) and Bombay (152·70).

189. A total of 4,275 lepers were treated in leper asylums and other centres of treatment under the Medical and Public Health Departments. The number of out-door leprosy clinics in the Public Health Department during the year was 66 against 62 in the previous year. The organisation of special leprosy work was taken up under the guidance of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association. A special Leprosy Officer was trained and appointed for this purpose.

190. *Adulteration of Food.*—This is a growing evil. The administration of the Assam Pure Food Act is almost entirely limited to the Municipal areas that have Health Officers.

191. *Expenditure by Local Bodies for Sanitary purposes.*—The total expenditure of Local Bodies on public health during 1939 was Rs.7,47,746 against Rs.7,57,214 in 1938.

SECTION 5.—Vaccination

[*See* Annual Public Health Report of Assam, 1939.]

192. The total number of vaccinations done during the year 1939-40 by all agencies was 945,876, of which 471,571 were primary and 474,305 re-vaccinations as compared with 855,034 of which 463,800 were primary and 391,234 re-vaccinations in the previous year. The death rate from small-pox per mille was ·26 as compared with ·21 in 1938 and 0·11 the decennial average. The highest death rate (0·60) was reported from the Sylhet district.

SECTION 6.—Bacteriological and Pasteur Vaccine Institute

[*See* the Annual Report on the working of the King Edward VII Memorial Pasteur Institute and Medical Research Institute, Shillong, for 1939.]

193. During the year anti-rabic treatment was carried out at the Pasteur Institute and at 24 public and 44 private centres authorised by Government. Out of the 2,313 persons who applied for treatment 1,986 (98 at the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, and 1,888 at out-centres) completed treatment against 1,875 in 1938. The death rate was 0·50 against 0·79 in the previous year. Pasteur Institute.

194. The total number of specimens examined in the Pasteur Institute during 1939 was 3,392 against 3,119 in the preceding year.

During the year 240,476 c.c. of cholera vaccine and 244,704 doses of bacteriophage were issued against 986,568½ c.c. and 495,872 doses respectively in 1938. The issues were less because of a decrease in cholera and absence of epidemics.

195. The Assam Medical Research Society continued its activities and research work relating to Malaria.

CHAPTER VII

INSTRUCTION

SECTION 1.—General system of Public Instruction

[*See* General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, pages 128-131.]

SECTION 2.—Education

General statistics. 196. The number of institutions of all kinds rose from 9,608 to 10,535, *i.e.*, by 927 or 9·6 per cent. and their enrolment from 544,620 to 594,849, *i.e.*, by 50,229 or 9·2 per cent. Recognised institution increased from 8,297 to 8,867, *i.e.*, by 570 or 6·8 per cent. and their enrolment from 485,992 to 520,473, *i.e.*, by 34,481 or 7·0 per cent. and unrecognised institutions from 1,311 to 1,668, *i.e.*, by 357 or 27·2 per cent. and their enrolment from 58,628 to 74,376, *i.e.*, by 15,748 or 26·8 per cent.

The total expenditure on public instruction in the Province increased from Rs.60,22,085 to Rs.64,01,619, *i.e.*, by Rs.3,79,534 or 6·3 per cent. The increase in expenditure from the Provincial Revenues amounted to Rs.2,19,115 or 6·7 per cent.

Collegiate education. 197. The enrolment in the two Government Arts Colleges at Gauhati and Sylhet rose from 1,799 to 1,820. The number of passes in the Degree and Intermediate Examinations were 285 and 401 against 301 and 340 respectively in the previous year. The numbers of Degree and Intermediate passes from private Colleges were 30 and 269 respectively.

Secondary education. 198. The number of Secondary Schools for boys increased from 610 to 658 and their enrolment from 95,136 to 102,395, *i.e.*, by 7,259 or 7·6 per cent. Boys' High Schools for Indians increased from 105 to 115 and their enrolment from 32,583 to 35,177 ; Middle English Schools from 269 to 305 and their enrolment from 24,064 to 27,599 ; Middle Vernacular Schools from 236 to 238 and their enrolment from 38,489 to 39,619.

Primary Education. 199. The number of Primary Schools for boys increased from 6,483 to 6,842, their enrolment from 3,32,653 to 3,52,524 and their expenditure from Rs.13,93,888 to Rs. 14,49,887, *i.e.*, by Rs.55,999.

Training of teachers. 200. There were 14,791 teachers (13,274 men and 1,517 women) against 13,935 teachers (12,572 men and 1,363 women) in the previous year. Of these 4,191 teachers were trained and the rest untrained. The total direct expenditure on provincial training institutions increased from Rs. 68,600 to Rs. 70,585.

In the B.T. Classes attached to the St. Edmund's Arts College, Shillong, there were 89 students under training. Examination results were excellent, out of 88 students presented 67 passed with 4 in the first class.

Law College. 201. The enrolment of Earle Law College at Gauhati decreased from 75 to 64. The College still continues its temporary lease of life. 16 students passed out of 25 presented for the B.L. Examination. The total direct expenditure increased from Rs.11,994 to Rs.11,995 out of which 52 per cent. was met from fee receipts.

Technical and Industrial Schools. 202. There were 17 Technical and Industrial Schools including 5 for females with 797 pupils on the rolls against 17 schools with 831 pupils of the preceding year.

Government Madrasa. 203. The total enrolment of the Government Madrasa at Sylhet increased from 332 to 352. Direct expenditure increased from Rs.38,049 to Rs.40,250.

Sanskrit College. 204. The number of students on the roll of the Government Sanskrit College at Sylhet was 24 against 29 in the previous year. The total direct and indirect cost of the institution was Rs.15,174 against Rs.13,225 of the previous year. The examination results were satisfactory.

The Assam Sanskrit Association and its executive—The Assam Sanskrit Board—have completed the fifteenth year of their existence. The number of successful candidates were 243, 108 and 39 in the first, second and Title Examinations respectively.

There were 197 *Tols* recognised by the Sanskrit Board. Returns were received from 156 *Tols* only with 1,923 pupils against 134 *Tols* with 2,049 pupils in the preceding year.

205. There were two Arts Colleges for women—the Lady Keane College and St. Mary's College, both situated in Shillong. Their enrolment was 108 against 101 students in the preceding year. Government contributed Rs. 6,000 out of a total expenditure of Rs. 28,295. Female Education.

The number of institutions of all classes for girls increased from 1,129 to 1,272, and the number of girls in all classes of institutions for boys and girls including colleges increased from 113,656 to 130,549, *i.e.*, by 16,393 or 14·[illegible] per cent.

206. The number of Anglo-Indian and European institutions remained at 4 as in the previous year. Their enrolment rose from 615 to 660 and the total expenditure increased from Rs. 2,72,413 to Rs. 3,12,030. About 77·7 per cent. of the total cost was met from fees and private sources. Anglo-Indian and European Education.

207. The number of Muslim pupils in all classes of institutions for Indians rose from 151,693 to 175,109 as shown below :— Muslim Education.

Institutions	Number of Muhammadan pupils in—	
	1939-40	1938-39
Colleges ...	555	518
High Schools ...	7,426	7,120
Middle English Schools ...	9,082	8,196
Middle Vernacular Schools ...	7,104	7,179
Primary Schools ...	112,519	105,462
Special Schools ...	2,329	1,590
Unrecognised Institutions ...	36,094	21,628
Total ...	175,109	151,693

208. The table below compares the enrolment in the Hill Districts for the last two years :— Hill Tribes.

	Primary		Secondary		Total	
	1938-39	1939-40	1938-39	1939-40	1938-39	1939-40
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	15,749	14,719	4,850	4,954	20,599	19,673
Naga Hills	3,912	4,563	997	1,092	4,909	5,655
Lushai Hills	9,182	9,515	878	952	10,060	10,467
Garo Hills	6,649	6,998	867	1,159	7,516	8,157

209. The number of tea-garden schools increased from 163 to 484 and their enrolment from 6,954 to 25,000. Tea Garden Schools.

210. This large increase in the number of institutions and scholars is mainly due to special efforts being made by the tea-garden authorities to providing facilities for the education of the children of their labour force.

Discipline was generally good, throughout the year. Discipline.

SECTION 3.—Literature and Press

211. The total number of publications received during the year 1939-40 was 30 against 19 in the previous year. They are classified as below :—

Miscellaneous	22
Schools Books and Keys	8

Of these 21 are first editions, 3 are second editions, 2 are fourth editions, 3 are fifth editions and one is sixth edition. Assamese 23, Bengali 2, English 2, Naga 1, Sanskrit-Bengali 2.

Miscellaneous.

CHAPTER VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1.—Ecclesiastical jurisdiction

[*See* General Administration Report for 1921-22, Part II, Page 134.]

SECTION 2.—Ecclesiastical

212. The Ecclesiastical Establishment maintained entirely or in part by the Government, consisted of the Chaplaincy of Shillong and the State-aided Chaplaincies of Sibsagar Lakhimpur and Silchar.

The Right Reverend G. C. Hubback D.D., Bishop of Assam was in charge of the Diocese and the Reverend A. Waite was Chaplain of Silchar throughout the year. The Reverend W. Boulton was Chaplain of Shillong from 1st April 1939 to 29th November 1939 and the Reverend L. W. Trotman from 29th November 1939 to 31st March 1940.

The total expenditure for the year 1939-40 was Rs.19,575-14-0.

SECTION 3.—Stationery

213. Both the original budget grant and the revised estimate for the year under report amounted to Rs. 61,000 out of which a sum of Rs. 53,860 was originally allotted. After withdrawals and additional grants sanctioned from time to time, the grant stood at Rs. 59,008. Against this sum the expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 57,986. The result at the close of the year was a saving of Rs. 1,022.

SECTION 4.—Printing

[*See* Annual Report of the Assam Government Press for the year 1939-40.]

214. During the year under report the receipts of the Press decreased from Rs. 30,926 to Rs. 15,469 and the total expenditure excluding book adjustment increased from Rs. 1,32,842 to Rs. 1,34,131. The decrease in receipts is mainly due to the decrease in miscellaneous receipts.

SECTION 5.—Veterinary Department.

[*See* the Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Assam, for the year 1939-40.]

215. Babu Bhudhar Chandra Chatterjee, G.B.V.C., temporary Veterinary Investigation Officer, Assam, held charge of the Office of the Veterinary Investigation Officer, Assam up to the 14th May 1939. He was on leave from the beginning of the year up to the 16th April 1939 and the post was vacant from the 15th May 1939 to the 8th September 1939. Mr. V. R. Gopala Krishnan, G.M.V.C.P.G., (Muktesar) was appointed Veterinary Investigation Officer, Assam, from the 9th September 1939 and he held charge for the remaining period of the year.

Staff.

216. The total strength consisted of 1 (one) Special Veterinary Inspector known as Johne's Disease Officer (temporary), 4 Veterinary Inspectors, 63 Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and 42 Veterinary Field Assistants who were appointed towards the close of the year.

Cattle Disease.

217. The total mortality from all cases was 48,317 against 59,241 of the previous year. Rinderpest alone was responsible for more than half of the total mortality. Preventive vaccination and inoculation against Rinderpest was undertaken in 1,279 outbreaks in which 22,996 animals were reported to have died uninoculated in course of the outbreaks. 335,384 animals were vaccinated with Goat-Tissue Vaccine and 354 animals were inoculated with serum-alone method. Out of the

inoculated and vaccinated animals 1,964 animals were reported to have died subsequently. The total number of in and out patients treated at the three Government Veterinary Hospitals was 8,222 against 7,844 in the previous year. The total number of cases treated and dealt with by the officers on tour including castration cases rose from 175,190 to 202,388. Miscellaneous.

General.

218. It was another unhealthy year for livestock. As in the last year Rinderpest was responsible for more than half of the total mortality, this disease was prevalent in all the districts except the Lushai Hills, the Naga Hills and the Sadiya Frontier Tract. The Department had to encounter two of the worst types of epidemics, namely, Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Goat Pox which broke out in two of the Government Farms, namely, Upper Shillong and Khanapara, but the situation was successfully controlled. South Sylhet Subdivision of the Sylhet District was a victim to a severe type of Equine Surra but prompt treatment proved effective. The problem of Johne's Disease amongst the cattle of Government Farms in particular and in the Province in general has been engaging the attention of the Veterinary Department for some years now. An effective application of the recommendations of the Committee headed by Mr. F. Ware, C.I.E., F.R.C.V.S., F.N.I., I.V.S., Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India, gave ample indication of a successful control of the disease in Government Farms as reported by the Second Ware Committee and evidenced by substantial reduction in the incidence of the disease in the Farms. Pending final decision on the question of re-organisation of the Veterinary Department, the dual control of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons by the Department and the Local Board is still continuing.

219. The total expenditure during the year was Rs.2,08,693 against Rs.2,07,411 in the previous year.

SECTION 6.—Electricity

[*See* Report on the working of the Indian Electricity Act in Assam for the year ending the 31st December 1939.]

220. Eight licenses were in operation during the year under review. The Nowgong and Tinsukia licenses have not yet been operated.

There were no prosecutions under the Indian Electricity Act or Rules.

A. G. P. (G. & J.) No.30—175—22-8-1941.